

January 11-17, 1987

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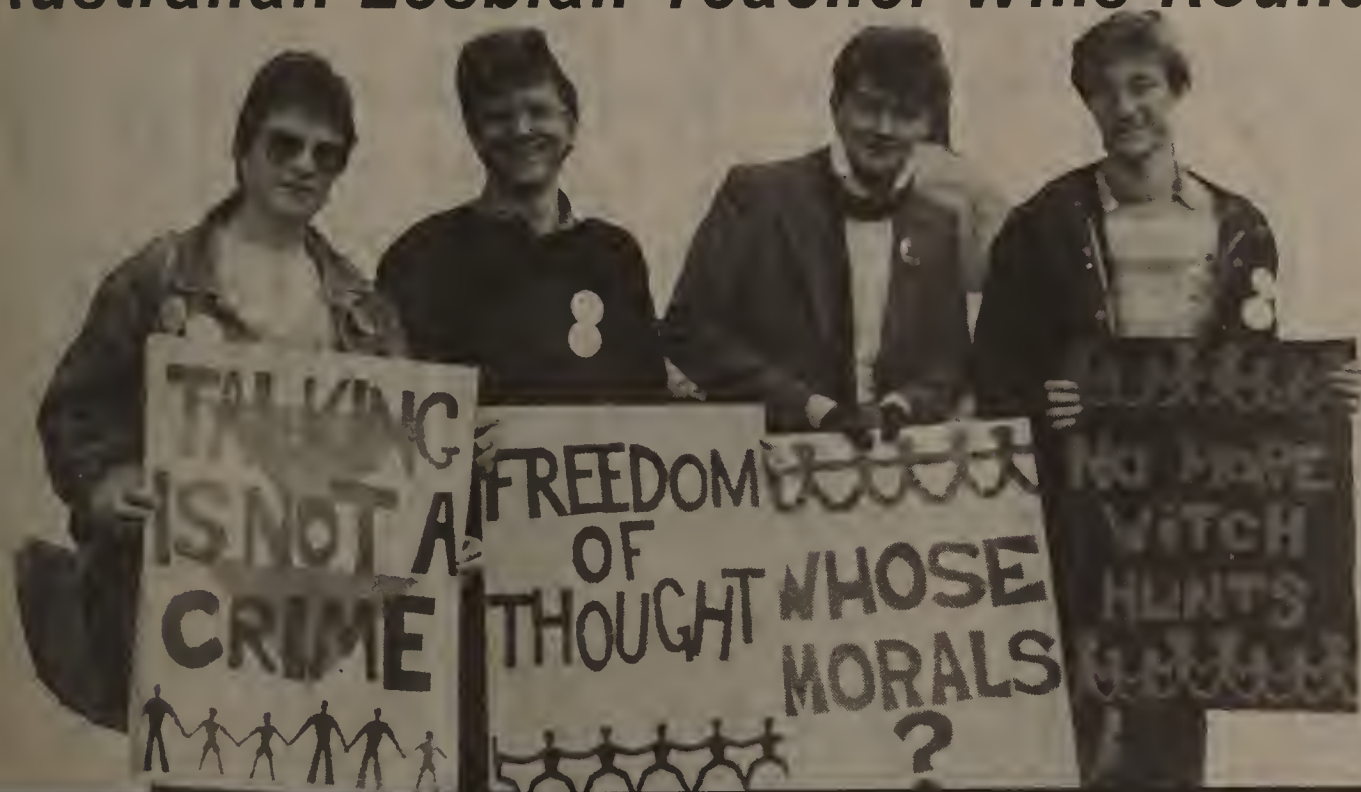
GayCommunityNews

VOL. 14, NO. 25

THE WEEKLY FOR LESBIANS AND GAY MALES

BIPAD: 65498

Australian Lesbian Teacher Wins Round



*John Maynard Keynes:
New Biography
Lames
Economist's
Closet*



GayCommunityNews

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New Vigor Cited in Pursuing Gaybash Cases

By Kim Westheimer

"If one is Black or white, a man or a woman, gay or straight, that does not give someone the right to beat [you] up."

— Steve, a gay man who was beaten up, testifying against his assailant in court, January 7, 1987.

BOSTON — After many delays, two victims of gay bashing have seen their cases move forward in the legal system.

A guilty verdict

On January 7, Ron Sinclair of Cambridge was found guilty of assault and battery. Sinclair was convicted of beating up a gay man, who wishes to be known as Steve, in his Beacon Hill apartment on August 9. Judge Peter Donovan, of Boston Municipal Court, gave Sinclair a three month suspended jail sentence, one year of probation and a \$100 fine.

According to Steve, he met Sinclair and another man outside of Sporter's, a gay bar. (See *GCN*, Vol. 14, No. 21) Following a friendly conversation, Sinclair invited the two men to his apartment. In the course of conversation at the apartment, Steve said one of the men grabbed him and said, "We don't like fags." Steve was beaten with a shelf pulled off the wall and threatened with a knife.

Steve was able to tell the police Sinclair's name and address because he had seen his wallet which held an identification card.

The police officer who Steve called following the incident did not include mention of the knife in his report. Although Steve attempted to press the issue in a court hearing, hoping to raise the

charges against Sinclair to assault and battery with a dangerous weapon, he was unsuccessful.

Sinclair pled guilty to assault and battery charges, but his lawyer, Allen DeWitt, asked for a suspended sentence or for the case to be continued without a finding. In support of such sentencing, DeWitt said, "My client works for the city of Cambridge, is engaged to be married and a member of the national guard." He called the assault "regrettable" and said that Sinclair "attempted to apologize to [Steve] at the outset." DeWitt also implied that Steve's testimony about the assault on August 9 was inaccurate.

Steve told *GCN* that he was happy Sinclair did not get an even lighter sentence. "My reaction is positive. Finally justice [was] done. I was worried he might get dismissed [without charges]." He did express regret that the charges were not changed to assault and battery with a dangerous weapon.

"There's nothing else I could have done except [press charges against Sinclair] to try to prevent things like this from happening," said Steve. Although he said he was nervous that pursuing the case would "open me up to personal embarrassment or danger, it seemed like the right thing to do. If I didn't, he would think he could do it more often. If I hadn't pressed charges I would feel terrified every time I went out."

Probable cause determined 17 months after an assault

Edwin Light was beaten and robbed in August of 1985. His jaw was broken, his teeth were kicked in and his wallet was stolen by a

man who allegedly told him, "You won't be sucking cock anymore." Two days after the incident a man was arrested for using Light's credit card. But the case has yet to go to trial.

Part of the reason for the delay, said Light, is that he suffered memory loss regarding the mugging and could not make a positive identification of the man who beat him. But following intensive therapy to regain his memory, in January of 1986 Light went to the police station and was able to make such an identification. He pointed to Robert Livingston, the man who had been arrested for credit card fraud, as the man who had broken his jaw.

Light said he spoke with assistant district attorney Kate Kirkpatrick shortly after he identified Livingston. According to Light, Kirkpatrick said that Livingston would be tried first for credit card fraud and then for assault and felony.

By May of 1986, Light had heard nothing new on the case. He said he sent a "scathing letter" to Kirkpatrick and Suffolk County District Attorney Newman Flanagan, but got no response.

Kirkpatrick could not be reached for comment.

In September, Livingston was scheduled to be arraigned but did not show up, said Light. Another arraignment was scheduled for October, but Light said he was not informed of this, so he did not attend. Livingston could not, therefore, be arraigned. According to Light, he was subsequently told that a warrant would be issued for Livingston's arrest.

Light said that through connections he made at the gay and lesbian victims recovery program at Fenway Community Health Center and gay city councilor David Scondras' office, a warrant for Livingston's arrest was eventually served.

On January 5, at a court hearing, it was determined that there was probable cause for continuing legal proceedings against Livingston. A grand jury is scheduled to decide in February whether the case will be moved to superior court.

Confronting gay bashing

"Any conviction is a step forward," said French Wall, a staff person in Scondras's office. Wall

said the past year is unique because a handful of gay men have pursued legal recourse following attacks.

Wall has been in contact with approximately a dozen victims of gay bashing in the past six months. People he sees either contact Scondras' office to get help navigating through the legal system or are contacted by Scondras when someone in the office hears of their case.

Joyce Collier, who works in the gay and lesbian victim recovery program, said more people who have been beaten up seem to be coming forward because gay bashing is receiving more attention in the press. But cooperation from the police department remains a serious problem, said Collier. A number of times, she said, police have not moved forward on a case until receiving pressure from Scondras' office.

The Public Safety Committee of the Boston Lesbian and Gay Political Alliance, which is sponsoring a series of forums on anti-lesbian and -gay violence, will be meeting in Dorchester on January 11. For more information about the meeting call (617) 265-0348.

Virginia Prisons Ban *GCN*

By Stephanie Poggi

RICHMOND, VA — *Gay Community News* has been banned by this state's Department of Corrections. According to Virginia's Deputy Director of Adult Institutions, Edward Morris, a copy reviewed by prison officials was determined to "depict perverted behavior" disallowed in material received by prisoners. Morris said the decision was made by an ad-hoc group of "upper level management people" sometime in October of 1986.

A prisoner in the state's facility in Lawrenceville, who had been receiving *GCN* until the October ban, has filed a grievance with prison officials. Morris said he was aware of the grievance, but that no action had yet been taken.

In a related case, a prisoner at the Massachusetts Treatment Center at Bridgewater has filed suit in Plymouth Superior Court on grounds that the Center has denied *GCN*, along with other publications, to prisoners. As *GCN* goes to press, the Treatment Center, which holds sex offenders until they are deemed "rehabilitated," has stated that the ban on the newspaper is over. Bill Smith of the Department of Mental Health (DMH), which oversees the center, said *GCN* has now been judged "journalistic, not sexually explicit." Smith said sexually explicit material is often withheld because it "may not be appropriate with these individuals' treatment." Smith said the exact policy on sexual materials is being reviewed and that he could not elaborate.

Virginia prison guidelines on publications for prisoners, revised in March of 1984, do not permit material that depicts or describes "sexual conduct...patently offensive" given "contemporary standards." Morris said all copies of *GCN* will be refused to prisoners unless the prisoner's grievance reaches a successful conclusion or other successful appeals are undertaken.

Morris said he had not seen the particular issue deemed to depict "perverted behavior." He would not allow *GCN* to speak with officials who had.

The "blacklisting" of *GCN* could open the Department of Corrections to legal action on grounds they are violating prisoners' and publishers' First and Fourteenth Amendment rights. A 1983 decision by a U. S. district judge held that each issue of a publication must be reviewed before it is confiscated.

The decision, in the Oregon suit brought by *RFD*, a magazine for gay men in rural areas, also determined that sexually explicit materials about homosexuals can only be denied to prisoners if similar heterosexual material is denied. Morris told *GCN* that magazines such as *Playboy*, *Hustler*, and *Penthouse* "don't meet the patently offensive" standard *GCN* meets. Morris did not know if other gay/lesbian materials are allowed into Virginia prisons.

Kevin Cathcart of Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders (GLAD) in Boston said the Virginia prisons may be "overreaching" by placing *GCN* on a ban list. "There may be issues that violate their standard, and there are clearly issues that would not." Part of the problem, he said, is that "a gay paper is viewed as by definition either porn or incitement to sexual behavior."

Morris told *GCN* the reasoning behind the guideline against "patently offensive" material is provision of the best possible care to prisoners. He said he is "not aware of any violence caused by it [allowing gay publications in]," but that due to AIDS, "homosexuals are becoming very unpopular in prison." A negative reaction to prisoners who have gay materials would not be surprising, he said, adding, "Some inmates find the stuff offensive...gross."

According to Mike Riegler, an

activist on prison issues and a *GCN* staff member, Morris' reasoning is not unusual. "Instead of putting people who do violence into isolation, prisons put people who are raped into so-called 'protective custody,' which means isolation, no recreation, etc. They always talk about protection, but they're blaming the victim, punishing the victim."

Riegler added, "The prison business, like the National Security Council, gives 'security' as a bottom-line excuse for its actions."

Responding to Morris' concern about a backlash against gay prisoners because of AIDS, Cathcart said, "You don't control violence by cutting off information. What they're doing is ensuring that information about AIDS — which is not available in the mainstream press and which prisons have not always provided — does not get in. They're ensuring that more people get sick and die."

Riegler noted that the majority of prisoners who have AIDS are drug users, saying, "The prisons are keeping this quiet, in part by putting up a smokescreen about the threat from gay men."

While *GCN* is currently admitted to over 100 state and federal prisons, Riegler said the Virginia ban may be "the specter of a new trend. The courts are becoming packed with Reagan appointees, and the prisons know they can win cases they never would have won five years ago."

Riegler also noted that changes within prisons do not occur unless there is a "public uproar." He said, "The prison business is not accountable to anybody — because people are generally not interested in what goes on beyond those walls." But, he added, "The Supreme Court's sodomy decision brings prison closer than many of us imagine."

— filed from Boston

Terry Dolan Dies of AIDS

By Stephanie Poggi

WASHINGTON, DC — New Right leader John Terrence Dolan has become the second prominent U.S. conservative to die of an AIDS-related cause in 1986.

Dolan died here on December 28 of congestive heart failure, after acquiring AIDS, according to the Washington *Post*. Roy Cohn, counsel to Sen. Joseph McCarthy during the 50s witch hunt of Communists, gay people and other "subversives," died of AIDS on August 2.

Dolan, 36, was a founder of the National Conservative Political Action Committee (NCPAC), the group that swept the New Right to unprecedented electoral power in the 1980 elections. Of the six liberal Democrats targeted for defeat by the committee's \$1.2 million campaign, only Alan Cranston and Thomas Eagleton retained their seats. Birch Bayh, Frank Church, John Culver and George McGovern were unseated and the Republicans won control of the U.S. Senate for the first time in 25 years.

The PAC also contributed nearly \$2 million to Ronald Reagan's successful campaign

for the presidency that year.

After 1980, however, Dolan's PAC lost momentum. The group failed to defeat Senators Paul S. Sarbanes (D-Md.) and Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) in 1982, despite spending over \$1 million in campaigns against them. Fund raising by the PAC has become more difficult in recent years and the organization has now incurred debts of nearly \$4 million.

Dolan was a strong advocate of the U.S. military, once stating that if he were in control of the federal budget, it would be "99 percent for defense — keep American strong — and one percent [for] delivering mail. That's it. Leave us alone."

Claiming a consistent ideology of "hands-off" government, Dolan joined a minority of conservatives in expressing a modicum of support for gay and lesbian civil rights. Interviewed by the *Advocate* in 1982, he said he would support a federal measure prohibiting discrimination against homosexuals.

"[S]exual preference," he said, "is irrelevant to political philosophy."

— filed from Boston

News Notes

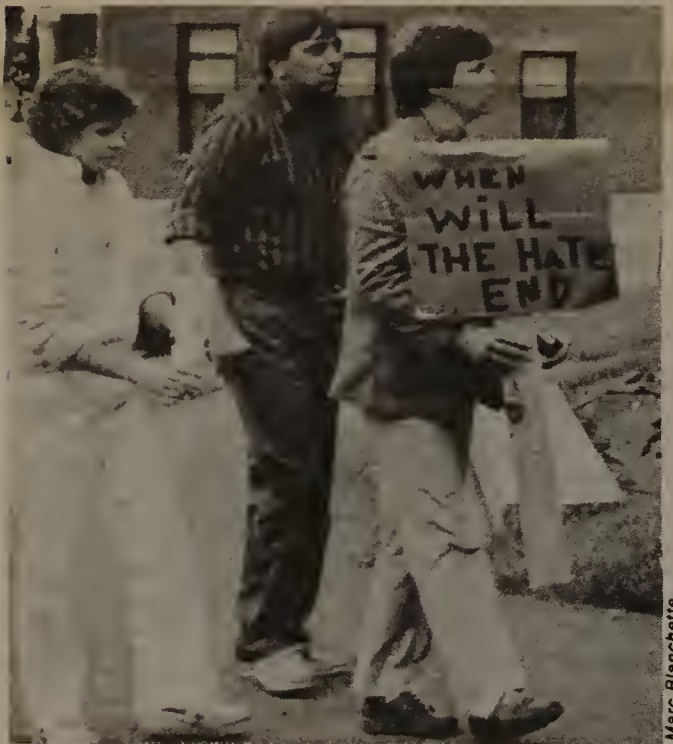
quote of the week

"The *Advocate* offers this simple guideline for dealing with correspondence from prisoners: THROW IT AWAY."
— a warning published until recently in every week's *Advocate* personals section.
* * *

The *Advocate* has become more sophisticated of late, advising readers not to "throw it away," but to "use the utmost caution" in avoiding "Inmate Scams." The message is apparently still effective, as the January 20 issue included a letter in Pat Califia's "Advertiser" column from a prisoner who had tried unsuccessfully to correspond with *Advocate* readers.
Prisoner Alfred Dalby wrote that he had written a number of letters in the personals and had received no response. "Then I saw that warning about inmates taking advantage of gays. Do you think that is why I get no responses to my letters?" Califia answered that "It's a terrible thing to be lonely" but "let's get real! You can't blame people for being cautious. It's reasonable to assume that if somebody is in prison, they did something wrong. If you want somebody to trust you, you will have to prove yourself. Being defensive won't help."

suspended sentence

DEDHAM, MA — A man who claimed he was sexually abused as a teenager by another man, was given a suspended sentence last month on charges he raped and assaulted two boys.
John Tribou, 28, received the suspended sentence within a week of the sentencing of his alleged assailant, Joseph Clint Bradley, who was charged with raping the same boys. Bradley, 44, was also charged with raping six other boys.
Bradley pleaded guilty to the charges and was sentenced to nine to 12 years in prison, according to the *Boston Globe*. The *Globe* did not report the ages of the boys allegedly raped.
— Sharon Haase



Mourning Charlie Howard two days after his death, Bangor Unitarian Church, July 9, 1984.

charlie howard update

BANGOR, ME — The three youths convicted of manslaughter in the July 7, 1984 killing of Charles Howard, a gay man, have been released. As of last September, James Baines, Shawn Mabry and Daniel Ness have left the custody of the Maine Youth Center, which they entered in October of 1984.
The three boys, whose ages ranged from 15-17 when the killing occurred, engaged in a plea bargaining arrangement in which they pleaded guilty to manslaughter to avoid a murder trial. They admitted to police that they chased Howard across a downtown street, beat and kicked him, and then they threw him over a bridge into the Kenduskeag Stream, where he drowned. According to Lois Reed, a member of the Bangor Area Gay, Lesbian and Straight Coalition (BAGLSC), Mabry is president of a fraternity at Bangor High School which is under investigation by the police for hazing.
In a related matter, Howard's parents have jointly filed a civil lawsuit against the families of the three boys. They are suing for \$688,000.
Members of BAGLSC are preparing for next year's commemoration of Howard, which will take place during the July 4th weekend and coincide with Maine's Gay Men and Lesbian Symposium. Activities include a memorial service at the Universalist Unitarian Church, a march to the bridge, followed by a rally in a nearby park.
— Nancy De Luca

prisoners flee aids unit

TRENTON, NJ — Four male prisoners escaped last month from an AIDS unit at a maximum security prison here. According to the *Chicago Sun-Times*, one of the men was caught shortly after the escape.
According to Corrections Commissioner Gary Hilton, the other three men are believed to be unarmed and are not considered an immediate public health problem.
— Sharon Haase

celibate woman

CHICAGO — *Celibate Woman: A Journal for Women Who Are Celibate or Considering This Liberating Way of Relating to Others* has been published irregularly since 1982. In an article in the *Chicago Sun-Times*, editor Martha Leslie Allen describes the magazine, which includes articles by celibate lesbians, as a "communication network" emphasizing the positive aspects of celibacy.
Allen notes, "If women could just see how much can be done, how much they could accomplish in their lives if they were celibate — a lot of women are not involved in a sexual relationship but they're not really living a celibate lifestyle because they're still devoting so much of their time and energy to looking for a man, thinking about a man, wondering what's wrong because they don't have a man."
Allen adds, "We're not anti-men. We're not anti-sex. If the right man comes along, that's fine. But the important thing is not to feel like you've got to seek it out."
Richard Roeper, of the *Sun-Times*, apparently does not believe Allen, saying *Celibate Woman* would be the official publication of "Land of the Big Mean Ladies" if such a land existed. A made-for-television movie by the same title, where women ruled and men were kept in cages, aired in the early '70s.
The most recent issue of *Celibate Woman* can be obtained by sending \$4 to Allen at 3306 Ross Place N.W., Washington, D.C. 20008.
— Sharon Haase

ball busters swing at women's clubs

SAN FRANCISCO — Four women-only health clubs here are being sued for sexual discrimination. The plaintiffs are men who belong to a community league baseball team called "the Ballbusters." According to *Coming Up!*, they claim not to be motivated by political reasons, but only by their desire for a place to shower and sauna after a game. When asked why they didn't join a single-sex club for men, or a co-ed club, they replied, "That's like asking the Blacks in the South to sit on the back of the bus."
Attorney for the Ballbusters, Lawrence Murray, claims the suit is a simple issue of sexual discrimination, and plans to invoke the Unruh Act, which prevents discrimination on the basis of sex, sexual preference, race, creed, or national origin. However, Barbara Brenner, an attorney representing the Women's Training Center, stated, "What we will be arguing is whether the wording of the Unruh Act will allow for the protection of members of those groups it was designed to protect even when it is being invoked by members of the group from which it was deemed necessary to protect them."
In addition to the Women's Training Center, clubs facing suit are the Pacific Heights Women's Fitness Club, Finnilla's House of Slenderizing and Fitness and the Fitness Zone.
— Sharon Haase

doctors, psychiatrists fearful of aids

SANTA ANA, CA — The psychological and emotional difficulties faced by people with AIDS (PWAs) are due in part to inadequate care and fear in the medical community, according to an article in the January issue of the *Psychiatric Times*.
While physicians have been educated about the illness and are not at risk, they harbor a "gut-level fear" of infection that interferes with patient care, public education, research, and funding, asserts Barbara J. Dwyer.
The results of a survey of people with AIDS show many feel their psychological needs are not given sufficient priority. For example, some PWAs received the diagnosis over the telephone with no offer of counselling or support.
In addition to the common responses they share with other people facing a life-threatening illness, PWAs often feel particularly isolated in a medical setting since some care-providers refuse to touch them or even enter their rooms.
— Stephanie Poggi

forum on abusive judges

BOSTON — The Massachusetts Chapter of the National Lawyers Guild will sponsor a panel discussion on judicial conduct and the Abuse Prevention Act on Tuesday, January 27, 1987, at 7:30 p.m., at Suffolk University, Fenton Bldg., Room 603, Boston. The forum is free and the public is invited.
Three Massachusetts judges have been severely criticized in recent months for their handling of requests for protective orders by battered women seeking shelter under the Abuse Prevention Act. The forum will feature three speakers who will discuss ways to monitor the conduct of judges and possible improvements in the system.
Speakers at the forum will be Chris Butler, an attorney with the Women's Law Collective in Cambridge and the Suffolk Law School Battered Women's Advocacy Project; Florence Rubin, Chairperson of the Mass. Commission of Judicial Conduct; and Ernest Winsor, attorney with the Mass. Law Reform Institute.
For more information, call the National Lawyers Guild at (617) 227-7335.
— Stephanie Poggi

celebrate and look down the road

BOSTON — Reproductive rights groups are hosting a celebration of the defeat of Question #1, the amendment to the state constitution that would have eliminated Massachusetts funding for abortion. The celebration, co-sponsored by the Gay and Lesbian Defense Committee, the Reproductive Rights National Network (Boston), Alliance Against Women's Oppression, Mobilization for Survival, and Boston NOW, will take place January 22.
January 22 is the anniversary of the 14-year-old Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion in the U. S. Entertainers will include Semanya McCord, Mili Bermejo, Yasko Kubota, Vicki Burns, and WEATOC youth theater. A few speakers will also address ongoing fights to ensure lesbian/gay parenting rights, end sterilization abuse and gain affordable health care and daycare.
The event will begin at 7:30 p.m. at the Cambridge YWCA at 7 Temple Street in Central Square. The YWCA is wheelchair accessible; child care will be provided as well as interpretation for the hearing-impaired and Spanish translation for speeches.
— Stephanie Poggi

a brick for casa myrna

BOSTON — South Boston's battered women's shelter, Casa Myrna Vazquez, is relocating after a fire last year which killed one woman and her baby, leaving eighteen others homeless. The fire intensified an already serious shortage of shelters for battered women, creating an urgent need for a new home for Casa Myrna. The original shelter could not be restored because local media had disclosed its confidential location while covering the fire.
According to Angela Bowen of *Sojourner*, "Given the tight housing market, looking for a house there [South Boston] was an act of faith in and of itself; actually finding one large enough for that number of women was nothing short of a miracle. But the miracle happened."
To fund the move, Casa Myrna received a grant from Fund for the Homeless, and contributions from individuals, churches, and businesses. To raise the final \$400,000, Casa Myrna has launched an extensive grassroots campaign, including the sale of bumper stickers and pins which read, "I bought a brick for Casa Myrna."
Anyone interested in contributing should send a check to: Casa Myrna Brick, P.O. Box 18019, Boston, MA 02118, or contact Angela Bowen at (617) 491-6851.
— Sharon Haase

comp. worth wins in s.f.

SAN FRANCISCO — San Francisco has become the first city to endorse a comparable worth bill by public vote. Sixty percent of San Francisco voters endorsed the bill in the November election. The measure will amend the city's charter to mandate pay equity for women and people of color. *off our backs* reports that its implementation will require the city's civil service commission to survey salaries and insure that jobs held predominantly by women and people of color are not recompensed less than jobs requiring comparable skills held largely by men and white people.
— Sharon Haase

Australian Board Backs Lesbian Ex-Teacher

By Kendall Lovett

I wish Alison Thorne had been my school teacher when I was passing through adolescence.

She impresses me as a teacher who has that inexplicable ability to identify with every age group. She also knows what it feels like to be out, which must provide a tremendous reassurance to those young people, who physically or emotionally, are aware of being outsiders.

But the Ministers in the Australian State Government of Victoria, the education bureaucrats and the popular media do not share this view of Alison Thorne as a Humanities teacher of high school students.

MELBOURNE, Australia — For three years, openly lesbian teacher Alison Thorne has been fighting to regain a high school teaching position. Thorne was transferred to an administrative position after she publicly expressed her sup-

News Commentary

port for the civil liberties of gay men interested in inter-generational sex.

On November 6, 1986, Victoria's Equal Opportunity Board vindicated her perseverance. After a three-day hearing in Melbourne of her complaint against the Education Department, the Board found that Thorne had been discriminated against because of her political views.

The Board's 44-page decision also stated that the conditions imposed on Thorne's return to teaching amounted to less favorable treatment than has been suffered by any other teacher in the Victorian Teaching Service. In particular, the requirement by the Education Department of resolutions of support from schools wishing to appoint Thorne has never been imposed on any other teacher.

The Director General of Education at the time, Norman Curry, was also criticized because, according to the



Kendall Lovett

Alison Thorne

Board, he exploited media reports of Thorne's statements which he knew misrepresented her views.

Some members of the print and radio media were also censured for indulging in "sensationalistic reporting of the worst kind."

The Education Department appealed the findings of the Board on November 27, presenting additional arguments against Thorne. But the Board reaffirmed its charge of discrimination, ordering the Department to reinstate Thorne as a high school teacher.

Speaking on the Gay Radio Information News Service (GRINS) after the Board's three-day hearing, but before the November 6 decision was announced, Thorne discussed the implications of her case: "Of course it is very important to lesbians and gay men, but the ramifications are much wider. My fight has also been for the right of public workers, especially teachers, to be able to speak out and be political

Alison Thorne's story begins on November 5, 1983, when the Delta Task Force of the Victoria Police in Melbourne raided a meeting of the Pedophile Support Group (PSG). Delta arrested eight gay men and charged them with conspiring to corrupt public morals. A ninth person at the meeting was not charged. He subsequently turned out to be a police spy, undercover agent Stephen Mayne (alias Greg Daniels), who had infiltrated the PSG. A counselor to the group was taken into custody in Sydney on similar charges.

On November 6, a meeting of the Gay Legal Rights Coalition (GLRC) in Melbourne authorized a media release attacking the use of the public morals charge and the implied threat to freedom of association and speech. Alison Thorne was named as one of the contacts on the release. Her home telephone number was quoted as well as her number at work — a public telephone in the Humanities staffroom at Glenroy Technical School.

On November 7, Thorne attended school, taught her allotted classes and supervised a student teacher. During the morning, Mike Edmonds of Radio 3AW recorded a telephone interview with her which was broadcast at 12:30 p.m.

"I did not speak as a teacher," Thorne said later. "I simply spoke out in defense of the civil liberties of a discussion group which had been infiltrated by a police spy and wrongly charged under the absurd but draconian common law of Conspiracy to Corrupt Public Morals. I queried age of consent laws which promote compulsory heterosexuality and a passive sexuality for women. I suggested that some young people between 10 and 16 years of age are capable of consenting sex."

In a transcript of the interview broadcast made available to the Board hearing, Thorne is quoted as saying, "I want to make it very clear that I believe that child abuse and child molestation goes on within the nuclear family overwhelmingly . . ." and a little later, "Well, I believe that children are in a position to consent and it depends on the definition of a child. What the media has been talking about is people between the age of 10 and 16 and I believe that those people are capable of consenting."

Interviewer Mike Edmonds asked, "Legally though, they're under the age of consent. Would you like that lowered?" Thorne replied, "I believe that age of consent laws in themselves are reactionary things."

Both the transcript and the tape recording as broadcast had been edited, according to Thorne, to remove comments she made about sexual abuse of children in family situations including a reference to sexual abuse she had suffered as a child. At no time during the interview had she mentioned Glenroy Technical or the fact that she was a teacher.

On November 8, 1983, Derryn Hinch, host of a

"Of course it is very important to lesbians and gay men, but the ramifications are much wider. My fight has also been for the right of public sector workers, especially teachers, to be able to speak out and be political about any controversial issue without reprisals from the State."

"talkback" show on Radio 3AW, repeatedly played sections of the Mike Edmonds' interview out of context, also naming Thorne and the school at which she taught. Glenroy Technical's principal began receiving phone calls.

By November 9, much of the other popular electronic media had jumped on the Hinch bandwagon. Journalists and camera crews from three television stations turned up at Glenroy Technical School. Thorne refused to talk to them and one TV team attempted to break into a classroom while she was teaching.

That night, at the regular meeting of the Parents and Teachers Association, concern was expressed that Glenroy Technical had been badly treated in the media coverage of the issue. Alison Thorne's fine record at the school was acknowledged, however, and no action against her was proposed.

On November 10, the Melbourne *Sun* newspaper carried a front page story headlined "Sex at 10 Teacher Outrage." It was later picked up by other newspapers around Australia.

The Technical Teachers Union immediately issued a statement defending Thorne's teaching ability and focusing on the breach of civil liberties involved in the trial by the media.

Thorne was then called before Director General of

tion, explaining that the interview had been edited and setting out her view accurately.

A statement was prepared, but at this point Curry advised Thorne the Ministry was no longer interested. Representatives of the Ministry later stated that they had changed their minds when they realized the GLRC press release had carried the number of the public telephone at Glenroy Technical School.

On November 11, Thorne awoke to find her home under siege by reporters peering in windows and trampling through her garden. Many of the reporters followed her to school. She was summoned to another meeting with Curry at which point Thorne agreed to a transfer to the Tullamarine Regional Office of the Education Department. The Tullamarine position, she was told, would be reviewed before the beginning of the 1984 school year.

When no review and placement had occurred by the end of January, the Technical Teachers Union approached the Ministry. Two technical schools in the Melbourne area had indicated their willingness to hire Thorne. However, the Ministry refused to allow her return to a secondary technical school "at this stage."

On May 10, 1984, at a committal hearing in the Melbourne Magistrates Court the Conspiracy to Corrupt Public Morals charges against the nine gay men of PSG were dismissed.

Many gay men and lesbians expected that the dismissal of the charges would mean an end to the Alison Thorne case. But in the following months, and despite other schools' attempts to hire Thorne, no action was taken by the Ministry.

In the meantime, the police Delta Task Force had begun an orchestrated campaign against the gay men exonerated of the conspiracy charges. Delta, renamed the Child Exploitation Unit, stepped up its harassment and fed the media bizarre, homophobic allegations of boy sex rings and the alleged use of the Gayline counselling service as a front for PSG.

Gayline bowed to the media pressure and pressure from some influential gay groups and forced out a gay counselor from PSG.

Towards the end of 1984, fourteen vacancies at technical schools were advertised. Thorne applied for them all. When the appointments were listed she discovered that she had been appointed to a position at Tottenham beginning January 1, 1985.

When the press approached Premier John Cain for his comments over the appointment of Alison Thorne to Tottenham Technical College in 1984, he told them that she was not an appropriate person to be placed before a class. He added that a decision had been made to permanently remove

her from secondary teaching.

Within weeks of the Premier's statements, the Director General officially transferred Thorne to the Tullamarine Regional Office where she had been working on a temporary transfer. When asked for his reasons, he replied that the move was in the public interest.

At the same time, however, the Education Department's advisers issued statements in support of Thorne's return to teaching.

The General Curriculum Consultant at Tullamarine said, "As a classroom teacher, she [Thorne] has a formidable understanding of educational resources, contacts and learning theory. Her appreciation of the elements required to promote a positive learning environment for all students is particularly heightened by her awareness of the issue of equal opportunity and equal outcomes for girls."

The head of the Humanities Department at Glenroy Technical School stated, "I have no hesitation in recommending [Thorne] for employment in any teaching service knowing that she would be an asset wherever she is."

Adding school community weight to both statements, the mother of two Glenroy students wrote to Thorne saying, "Before all this fuss blew up I regarded you as just the sort of teacher all kids should have. Nothing has changed my mind about that. School kids are the losers while you are kept out of the classroom."

Thorne's legal advisers subsequently recommended that she lodge a complaint with the Equal Opportunity Board.

Following the Board's November 6 decision in favor of Thorne and reprimand of media sources, some reporters defended their accounts of the case. Derryn Hinch, of Radio 3AW, said that if he was guilty of "sensational" reporting, then he was "proud to be guilty." Hinch added, "All I did was try and keep a warped teacher away from impressionable kids . . . I believe parents of kids needed to know."

Not surprisingly, the rights of parents were discussed at length throughout the case, while the views of Thorne's former students, some of whom wrote the Ministry of Education in support of Thorne, received no media attention.

Postscript: Premier John Cain has announced that the Victorian government will not comply with the reinstatement order of the Equal Opportunity Board. If necessary, said Cain, the government will consider introducing emergency legislation to keep Thorne out of the classroom.

The mother of two Glenroy students wrote to Thorne, saying, "Before all this fuss blew up I regarded you as just the sort of teacher all kids should have. Nothing has changed my mind about that. School kids are the losers while you are kept out of the classroom."

about any controversial issue without reprisals from the State."

Thorne also addressed the criticism levelled at her from some lesbian/gay circles. She said opposition to her support for the rights of gay pedophiles came mostly from white, middle-class gay men. According to Thorne, "Those gay men think it's all a matter of getting a little more respect and acceptance. . . [But] to liberate lesbians and gay men is a radical fundamental change for society and not a case of getting cosy with politicians."

Education Curry. Attending the meeting with representatives of her union, the Technical Teachers Union of Victoria, she told Curry she was opposed to sexual abuse of any person at any age but believed that there was a difference in circumstances where there had been meaningful consent. She explained to him the reason for the Gay Legal Rights Coalition press release and the views she had expressed in the 3AW interview. She said she gained the impression at the meeting that the Director General was supportive and seemed to think her views were reasonable. Curry proposed that a statement be prepared for release by the Ministry of Educa-

Community Voices

GCN JOB OPENINGS

GCN is seeking a **CIRCULATION MANAGER/STAFF WRITER** and an **ART DIRECTOR**, beginning 1/87-3/87.

CIRCULATION MANAGER/STAFF WRITER

Research and write news stories of interest to national readership. Coordinate weekly mailing of paper by volunteers, process subs and renewals. Requires writing skills and ability to work with deadlines, interpersonal, organizational and record-keeping skill. Knowledge of data entry and/or computers helpful.

ART DIRECTOR

Establish overall design of the paper, and oversee the layout and proofreading functions on production night. Design (or assign to volunteer artists) front cover, centerspread artwork/layout, and book supplement graphics, as well as promotional brochures, leaflets, etc. Requires strong graphic design/art skills. Familiarity with type specifications, knowledge of printing techniques and previous related experience preferred.

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All GCN staff members receive \$180/week plus 4 weeks paid vacation, complete health/life insurance and sick leave. GCN also offers staff members a flexible, non-hierarchical work setting, with room for independence and innovation.

Send resumes to GCN Job Search, 167 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02111.

Lesbians and gay men of color are particularly encouraged to apply.

Application deadline for both jobs is February 15.

more global news please

Dear GCN:

Today is Dec. 20 and I have just rec'd your 14-20 issue. I get it in the mail since I live in Colorado. In your Dec. 14-20 issue you request submissions from your lesbian readership (re: what types they find attractive). The deadline for response is Dec. 17. My copy didn't arrive until Dec. 19. If you want more subscriptions, how about attending to your national readership? You could do this by advancing your deadlines so we mail subscribers at least have a chance to respond before deadlines, and also covering national and international gay news, rather than reporting on local straight rallies, on your front page. I love receiving GCN and will continue to do so, since your paper is the only gay weekly that gives equal time to us dykes, but I do get frustrated when your staff ignores the national (international?) character of your readership. Please consider headlining more global (or at least beyond Boston) gay news, and how about advancing your submission deadlines to include us? Sincerely, R. C. Denver, CO

in planning for the 1987 march

Dear GCN:

To this participant in the March-on-Washington conference in New York on Nov. 14-16, it was apparent that in the contentious atmosphere, rhetoric took precedence over the planning for the March or how it could form the basis of channeling our energies for our own liberation.

Regional representation (four were elected from each of 11 regions with a balance of people of color and of gender) plus "special interest representation" (20) were constituted into a National Steering Committee of 64 who will meet in Los Angeles on the Jan. 17 weekend to forge strategies and organize the march through its Washington office (the choice between New York and Washington generated a rancorous discussion at the Conference). It could have been worse. The previous march in 1978 was a rallying point at this year's Conference so that all the major lesbian/gay organizations agreed early to call and sponsor a march. The agreed date is Oct. 11, 1987. We are better off now than we were at this point for the last march. Now what?

I would like to see the National Steering Committee and the Washington Office concentrate on:

1. documentation of discrimination against lesbians and gays (including AIDS) on common discrimination documentation forms so that each region (with the major metropolitan areas as foci) can produce at least 1,000 cases in the same format before the march date. These cases (anonymous when presented for scrutiny) should all be presented at the march rally, and then to Congress to be entered into its Record. This would encourage civil rights efforts on the city, state and federal levels where the first demand by straights is to prove discrimination exists. This would lay the basis for civil rights efforts across the United States. Each region and metropolitan area should be a major receiving center for the completed forms.
2. documentation of discrimination by lesbians and gays against lesbians and gays within our own metropolitan communities on a regional basis. This would be on the same forms mentioned above. This would include racism, sexism, ethnic discrimination, discrimination on the basis of handicap,

"life without" in arkansas

Dear GCN:

Hi, I am 42 years old, a lesbian, and would like to converse with people in the free world and in other prisons in the United States. My interests are creative writing, reading, psychology and law behind bars, and justice for prisoners of the United States. I'm interested in writing a book about this.

I'm doing a 'life without' [parole] sentence in Arkansas at this time and am waiting to go back to court. I have prepared my own case (an acquittal) and am willing to help anyone doing life or life-without sentences in how to use the law library in their prison if they don't know how.

I need a person in the free world, man or woman, as long as they are gay, to share my thoughts with. Color does not make a difference to write to when I am lonely. I will be waiting to hear from anyone on the outside or the inside that cares.

Sincerely,
JoAnn Benoit
2590 Unit 7
8000 W. 7th
Pine Bluff, AR 71603

AIDS, and so on. Again the forms would be submitted to the same centers mentioned in point 1. I would propose that if a specific complaint against a particular lesbian/gay establishment or business had at least 3 independent complaints, xeroxed copies of the (anonymous) complaints should be sent directly to that establishment with a request to rectify the situation. This type of action would indicate that we are against all oppression even from within our own community.

3. coordination of all the lesbian/gay media with the regional/metropolitan/national organizing groups to promote the March, organizing meetings, and developing momentum. For example, newspapers/newsletters should run a march-related item for every issue whether it be the last march, the present one, or issues the march will focus on. Fundraising for the national and regional efforts, how to arrange cheap and efficient transportation for the march multitudes, how to create excitement, all these require cooperation and goodwill between all.

4. participation of prominent supporters of lesbian/gay rights and for increased AIDS funding should be organized as soon as possible. Our "supporters" must be given ample time to give their verbal and written support. We need prominent people so the straight press can't ignore the march like they largely succeeded in doing in 1978. We need people like Jesse Jackson, Ted Kennedy, Gary Hart (?), Liz Taylor, Joan Rivers and other supportive actors and actresses, all politicians at every level who support us, famous people in the arts, science, business, social life, and so on and so on. Our enemies must see we have allies from as diverse groups as possible, left or right wing, libertarian, democrat or republican.

5. declaration of the march as a *national time of coming out* for our closeted brothers and sisters to generate energy, and to ferment.

I have no doubt we all will do all of the above and more. I look forward to a triumphant march on Oct. 11.
Shane S. Que Hec
Cincinnati, OH

sodomy referendum campaign

Dear GCN:

I am someone who works as an individual for gay rights, as something of an obsession, without being affiliated with any particular group. It has seemed to me that Massachusetts gay leaders do not yet have a clear strategy for dealing with the Supreme Court sodomy decision, and I am writing to various individuals and gay organizations to share my own ideas on the subject.

To date, the idea that gay leaders have offered is to make an effort to put pressure on the state legislators, through letter writing campaigns and such, in preparation for getting a vote on Beacon Hill for the repeal of the state sodomy law. I have come to feel very strongly that this is the wrong strategy, and I am writing to explain why I think there is a better alternative.

Please consider that a variety of polls have shown that a clear majority of the American public does not favor sodomy laws, in all geographic regions of the country. This includes relatively recent polls, such as one taken by *Newsweek* magazine shortly after the sodomy decision, and a poll taken in Massachusetts by a local talk show. Yet in spite of the widespread lack of public support for the laws, roughly half of the states in the country consistently refuse to get rid of them. This phenomenon clearly must have some kind of explanation.

I think that there are two major factors to explain this. First of all, politicians know that even when a majority of their constituents do not support sodomy laws, there is still a significant difference in the passion levels of the pro-gay and anti-gay factions of their constituency. While straight voters may not support sodomy laws, neither is it a matter that directly affects their own lives, nor is it a matter of serious personal concern to them. It is not the type of issue that will translate into lost votes, or even be remembered, if the politician casts an anti-gay vote. On the other hand, the religiously oriented or extremely homophobic elements will take the issue much more seriously, and their votes may actually be lost if a pro-gay vote is made.

The second reason is that while the public may be in general pro-gay on the particular issue of sodomy laws, they are still apt to be anti-gay on a host of other issues, such as foster care or gay civil rights legislation. The politician is apt to fear that a pro-gay vote even on sodomy might be misinterpreted as an indication of more general support for gays, and cause them to acquire a dreaded "pro-gay" label.

The situation with sodomy laws is undoubtedly similar to that seen recently with abortion. State legislators were afraid to cast pro-abortion votes in spite of a previous referendum that had already shown clear public support for abortion. They were afraid of appearing to oppose Catholic leaders, and preferred to duck the issue instead, leaving it to the second, recent referendum.

Massachusetts gays have already had letter writing campaigns to state legislators on other issues. Massachusetts politicians have shown the grossest kind of anti-gay sentiment and trampled over gay issues, without suffering any significant political consequence. Beacon Hill is already highly sensitized from a series of very bitter fights over AIDS, gay rights, and foster care. We have no reason for high expectations that we will fare any better on the issue of sodomy laws.

On the other hand, all public opinion surveys that I have seen show clear support for us, at least so far as sodomy laws are concerned. It would therefore seem most logical to try to attack the problem by way of public referendum. In the past election, we had a great variety of social issue questions, and there is no reason that sodomy laws could not be repealed in the same way that mandatory seatbelt laws were repealed.

I think that gays tend to have a psychological block against the referendum route, because of bad experiences with referenda on gay civil rights legislation. However, sodomy is a different issue, and it takes a much greater level of bigotry to favor criminalization of private, consensual sex between adults. We have seen even staunch anti-gay conservatives such as William Buckley speak out against sodomy laws, and we should not be ignoring what polls have clearly shown in terms of public attitude on the subject. It also should be noted that pro-gay decisions of any kind are very subject to challenge by referendum, anyway. A legislative victory may not last, even if it can be won, if real public support is not there.

I am not someone with contacts, resources, organizational skills, and political savvy to make this happen single-handedly. But I certainly think that getting enough signatures to obtain a referendum is not something out of reach, if gay leaders can agree on the strategy and pull together on it. Of all the gay issues, the criminalization of gay sex carries the most ominous possibilities in light of AIDS and anti-gay hysteria. All other gay victories rest on shaky ground so long as sodomy laws exist, and repeal of the laws should be one of our very first priorities, more so now than ever before.

Sincerely,
Tom Leske
Randolph, MA

GayCommunityNews

cover design/ina cohen
top photo/kendall lovett
bottom illustration/
gwen raverat

Gay Community News is produced by a collective dedicated to providing coverage of events and news in the interest of gay and lesbian liberation. The collective consists of a paid staff of eleven, a general membership of volunteers, and a board of directors elected by the membership.

Opinions reflected in "editorials" represent the views of the paid staff collective. Signed letters and columns represent the views and opinions of the authors only. We encourage all readers to send us comments, criticism, and information, and to volunteer and become members.

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Speaking Out

Black History Month

February is Black History Month and *GCN* plans to devote much of the month to articles by and about Black gay men and lesbians. If you are interested in writing for us, or have suggestions about writers or stories, please call (617) 426-4469 a. s. a. p. For Speaking Out submissions, contact Laurie Sherman; for news stories/analyses, call Stephanie Poggi; and for features stories, contact Loie Hayes. We look forward to hearing from you.

A Commitment to Accessibility

By Felice Shays

Those of us in the lesbian and gay political scene fall in varying places on the spectrum of political awareness. Some of us have events that include child care, chemical-free space, sign language interpretation, programs printed in Braille and sliding-scale ticket prices. While the above are often viewed as a part of countless "issues" which we are politically compelled to address, the "issues" represent — and are — people. Failures to include these considerations deny people the choice to attend an event.

In reality, although we may try, keeping everyone's needs in mind (and the list is ever growing) is a large task. So often someone loses out when the energy of the producers of an event is burnt out — when their energies and resources are spent.

In the case of a recent benefit dance party for *Gay Community News* and material aid for Nicaragua (November 9), a group of dykes and faggots representing different lesbian and gay affinity groups got together to create a fundraiser. A few meetings, countless phone calls and seemingly endless shopping trips later, the benefit dance was born.

But there was an "issue" that was forgotten. Not heeded was the importance of wheelchair accessibility: the dance was held on the fourth floor of a walk-up building. Quite bluntly, we fucked up. It is true that during the initial meetings we struggled to come up with a wheelchair accessible space that also allowed liquor, stayed open past midnight, didn't require renting a cop, was 'T' accessible, had nearby parking and was affordable. So when the Sanchin Karate School in Cambridge was available, we hesitantly took the space. It was cheap, convenient, spacious and pretty. But it was all stairs and no elevator. The benefit was a smash — good time, good music, and good money raised. But there were people missing from this party: anyone who was unable to climb stairs. They were not invited. This included active volunteers and members of *GCN* (for whom the benefit was fundraising), and friends of some of the organizers. As a result I understandably got a lot of shit from members of my affinity group — one of whom is a *GCN* staff person. For some people, a benefit without alcohol cannot be a lucrative benefit. In some cases this may be true, but are we willing to make earning money our main or only priority, maintaining the capitalistic,

patriarchal method of discrimination for profit? Who are we to make it impossible for members of our communities to attend an event?

We, the organizers of the benefit dance, are truly sorry for copping out to the path of least resistance, and pledge not to make the same mistake again. All affinity groups involved and *GCN* have made the commitment to host only events that are wheelchair accessible. To further that commitment, *GCN* and individual affinity groups have decided that they will always provide an interpreter (if appropriate), childcare, and sliding-scale for ticket prices. We hope that other groups will follow suit.

Perhaps in the future organizers should use a different approach. We need to remember that members of our organizations and communities use wheelchairs or are otherwise unable to climb stairs. We can imagine, as able-bodied organizers, that a member of the event's planning committee uses crutches or a wheelchair. Or perhaps one of the members' lover is unable to climb stairs. Only after remembering these things and using them as guidelines can we then proceed with locating an appropriate space for the event.

Finding an accessible space is, in itself, a difficult task. And so, with the help of different organizations and individuals, a list of accessible places, their limitations and costs will be compiled and printed in *GCN* and other newspapers. It will also be available by mail and at various bookstores. (If you have suggestions for possible spaces please contact b squared, 47 Roslin St., Dorchester, MA 02124).

It is important to remember that it doesn't matter if during the event the wheelchair ramp is never used or that the lift is never operated. If good outreach is done, and people have been presented with a choice, we are not responsible for anyone's attendance. But we are responsible, as politically active people, for changing the ways things have always been done. Addressing the issues cannot be rhetorical; we must act.

This piece was written by Felice Shays, representing these Boston-area affinity groups: Positively Revolting, United Fruit Co., Red Shades, Black Sweaters, and the Nicole Hollander Fan Club.

Community Voices

not a gay rights issue

Dear *GCN*:

In reference to your article in the November 23-29, 1986 issue of the *Gay Community News* concerning the incident at the New England Telephone garage at 343 Congress Street Vol. 14, No. 19, Second Anti-Gay Attack at Phone Co. where a young gay man was "attacked" while arguing with a fellow worker — the tone of your report suggests this incident was a "gay rights issue." This is not true.

Yes, there is a small percentage of the employees who engage in writing graffiti in telephone terminals. However, your printing of the statement "A number of employees including a Supervisor, passively watched" (while this incident occurred) is both false and misleading.

At this time, there are two other openly gay men working at the same location who have never been harassed. In fact they are included in every aspect of work life including recreation. Why is it they have no problem relating with fellow employees?

The interview with Mr. Cronin in the Article had absolutely no connection with this incident what so ever. Mr. Cronin's statement, "I think (the assault) is directly related to my situation. He had no problem until he made some remarks defending me," is not true. If there was any underlying cause it was the young gay man's crossing of a picket line during the CWA strike against New England Telephone this past summer, he was the only person to do so out of this work location and it caused a lot of resentment.

This incident had nothing to do with any "gay rights" issue or the support of Mr. Cronin. It was a disagreement between two men, one of whom happened to be gay.

Concerned Co-workers
(17 signatures attached)
Boston, MA

against whites and blacks writing

Dear *GCN*:

Thanks for sending me a copy of "Prisons within prisons." I have a question for you. One area that I don't understand is why people in prison are against whites writing to blacks or associating with them at all. I write to several blacks and people say rude things about this. I've a strong attraction to them which others feel is wrong. But I'm not going to let others stop how I feel. What is Black and White Men Together? Is this about the problem I have stated above?

I hope you all got the card I sent to *GCN*.

Thanks,
Michael Rathbone
33569
Box 2800
Lincoln, NE 68502

administration loves lack of unity

Dear *GCN*:

Being in prison I have a lot of time for thought. One of the things I've noticed is a lack of unity. Unity of any kind, no matter how loosely defined is nearly nonexistent here. The administration loves this, of course. They support it actively through various means of "segregation" of all prisoners, by actual verbal and physical agitation or souping up prisoners against each other racially and sexually and by giving some of us clerk jobs or other small amounts of 'authority'; all of which break down our unity and resistance into individual lawsuits against their illegal(!) actions. Doing this they set up a "pecking order" so that they only have to control a small number of individuals (who then help to control the rest of us!).

All of this creates a very explosive atmosphere, what with the heavies, hall workers and clerks, not to mention the snitches, working with the police; they can isolate any groups that try to form. If these people ever wake up, all hell will break loose. I can see the same conditions for the gay population and Black, Hispanic, and Oriental peoples. In every case the system works to break down forms of unity that don't go along with the status quo.

Brothers and sisters of oppression, let's wake up and stand up together!

Raleigh T. Clayton Jr.
158111
Box 900
Jefferson City, MO 65102

he was one of us

Dear *GCN*:

I just received the *GCN* and saw the letter from Kenneth Coleman about the poor treatment of prisoners with AIDS in California. Well, I got bad news for you. My friend Kenneth is dead. He took an overdose. It really got us here real bad, because he was one of us. He got ARC. He could have been alive if these people here gave the attention to him when he was dying, but no, they took their time and let my friend pass away.

I am not good at giving this kind of news, but it's okay if you want to remember him in *GCN*. Thank you,
A Prisoner
Vacaville, CA

GCN prints all letters to the editor except personal attacks. Carbon copies of letters sent elsewhere are only printed on a space-available basis. Letters should be TYPED and DOUBLESPACED and limited to five typed pages. Send to Community Voices, *GCN*, 167 Tremont St., Boston, MA 02111.

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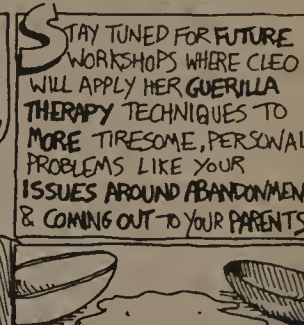
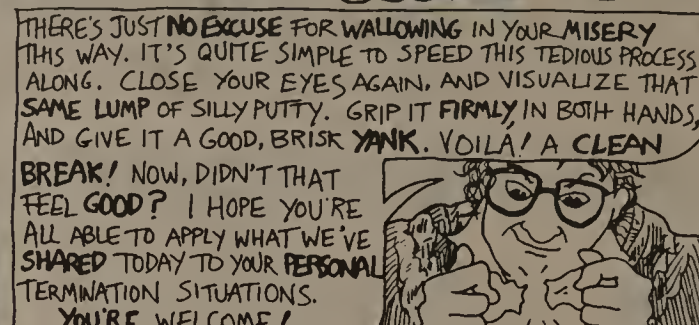
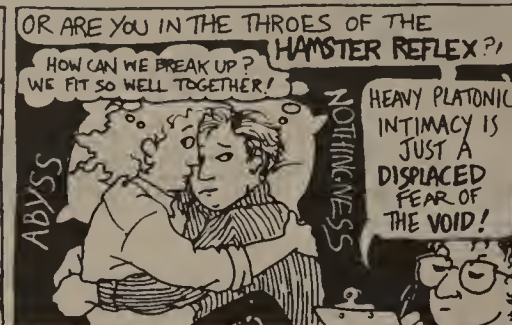
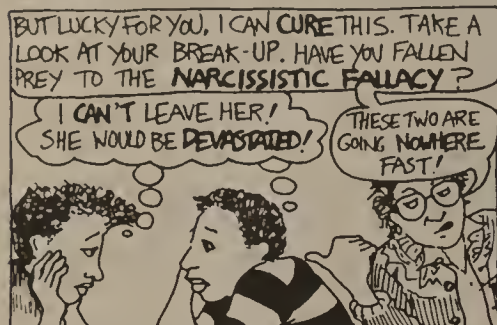
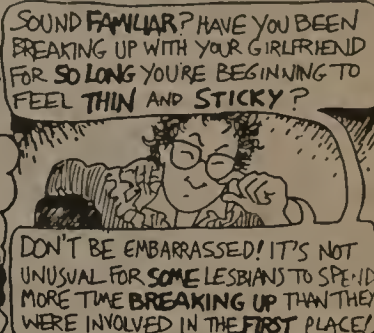
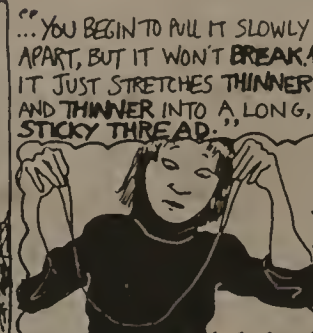
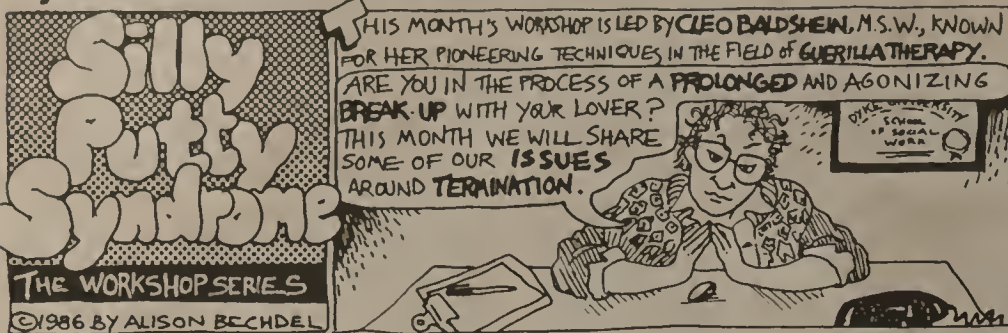


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Dykes to Watch Out For



Boston Herald columnist Don Feder analyzed Homophobia Connects Wimps and Feminists

By Ronnie Allen

In the past few years, there has been a proliferation of right wing ideologues in print. One of the more exotic is the Boston Herald's local columnist, Don Feder. Feder is anti-gay and like many of his cohorts is enamored of "tradition" and what constitutes "the traditional man." He feels competent, furthermore, to define what, in his terms, "the liberated lass" of the '80s wants in the way of male companionship. Though his intellect demonstrates a thin grace, his homophobic and sexist arguments are symptomatic of a strain of thought that is prevalent in a frighteningly large segment of the population and deserves examination.

The following are some quotes from Feder's columns of the past two years.

10/11/84. Attacking the "new man" as Feder calls him or the "wimp," another of his favorite terms, one indivisible from the other according to him, Feder with characteristic subtlety etches the parameters of his discussion.

"The strong silent type (the hero of yesteryear) is dismissed as emotionally repressed. The new man is strong enough to admit his weaknesses and fears, the apostles of wimpishness insist. Thus does sniveling cowardice become a badge of courage."

"He expresses his ardor with feminine sighs and whimpers,"

Feder continues, apparently showing his eclectic tastes by punning the title of the Bergman film *Cries and Whispers*. One can almost imagine the new man at the height of rapture, being carried up a long winding staircase in a half swoon by a distaff Rhett Butler."

"The liberated lass of the '80s with her career goals and free-wheeling life-style looks longingly at the discredited macho ideal. Many search in vain for men like their fathers and grandfathers — those much maligned towers of strength — who will comfort and care for them."

"If a woman desires feminine companionship, why should she settle for a wimp, when she can have the real thing. One hopes the new man can derive emotional gratification from his European coffee maker, his Gucci loafers and his yoga classes. For this psychological castrato is fast discovering that real women have little use for men who eat quiche."

While not overtly condemning homosexuality in this column, Feder's blatant sexism hints at a philosophy he develops in later columns. Indeed most sexists are homophobes.

2/27/85. Denouncing Teddy Kennedy as "an anachronism," for his liberal views, Feder calls him, "a champion of privileges for gays." He continues, "There's hardly a weird social cause the senator hasn't embraced with hand-rubbing enthusiasm."

8/7/85. Damning liberals and praising Christian fundamentalists, he writes fondly, "Their [fundamentalists'] stand on social issues was, well — positively biblical. Abortion was murder, homosexuality a sin and pornography a corrupting influence, they steadfastly maintained."

"These views put them at odds with America's cultural arbiters. For the latter, God is okay in the abstract. But belief in a deity who has established an ethical code and who punished transgressors is sure to lead to neuroses in their opinion."

3/31/86. "Wimp is in, at least among the quiche and Perrier crowd. While blue-collar types flock to macho movies, yuppies cling to the Alan Alda mystique."

"Feminist clichés have been swallowed whole. New men wear their sensitivity like a badge of honor, and prattle endlessly about their vulnerability, and capacity for caring. Washing dishes and changing diapers are their hallmark."

"The new men who mouth this sexual party line are truly pathetic creatures, disavowing their masculinity, desperately trying to be the psychologically-neutered entities feminists desire."

"And women have problems

with wimps. Instead of security and tenderness, the new man has nothing to offer a woman but unisex companionship and an ongoing competition to be her emotional equal."

Feder concludes that the "new man" and "feminists" are carving out for humankind "a tedious existence in which lack of acceptance of our own sexuality will lead to an inability to relate to the other sex, which in turn will create a climate conducive to homosexuality." And there, of course, is the nexus of his argument: what is truly wrong with wimpishness, feminism and the "new man" is that they are symptoms of dreaded queerness, unnaturalness — abominations in Feder's divine order of machismo.

4/14/86. The nadir of Feder's errant philosophy is revealed in this column titled "Let Heaven Deal with the Homosexuals"—such a melodramatic heading for another macho diatribe, suggesting that epicenter of 1940's dark romances, Ben Ames Williams' book club gothic *Leave Her to Heaven*.

In this column, Feder is against laws prohibiting sodomy because he finds such laws unenforceable and an invasion of privacy. But gays don't get off so easily. He attacks gay civil rights legislation generally and the gay civil rights bill in New York City which passed this year, in particular.

For instance, according to Feder, "Under this odious or-

Continued on page 11

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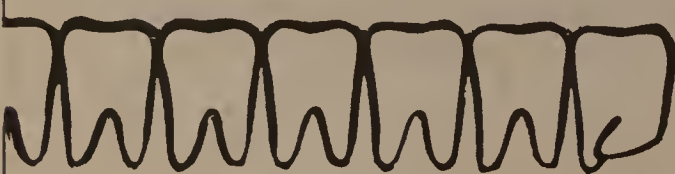
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Feminist Press Brings Latina Poets to Boston

By Kelley Ready

Women from Nicaragua, Panama and El Salvador read their poems to a New England audience on Dec. 4 at the Cambridge Public Library. The bilingual reading, Central American Women's Poetry for Peace, was predominantly organized by Granite Press, a feminist and lesbian press which will issue a bilingual anthology of Central American women poets entitled *Ixok Amar Go* this May. The title, an amalgam of Mayan, Spanish and English, means "women going forward with love, without bitterness."

Zoe Anglesy, the anthology's editor, is a North American poet and translator who has spent considerable time living and travelling throughout Central America. It was at the 1985 Central American Writers Conference in Costa Rica that she first thought of the idea of the anthology. She had raised the question, "What should be done for Central America in the United States?" and the answer was a resounding "Promote peace."

With this mandate and the recognition that there are few opportunities for Central American women to get their voices heard in the U.S., Anglesy began, along with Granite Press publisher Bea Gates, to work on this anthology and an accompanying tour of New York and New England. The poems which were presented at the reading represent only a small sampling of what will be in the anthology. *Ixok Amar Go* will include 59 contributors including lesbians and heterosexuals from Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama, ranging in age from a 16-year-old Salvadorian refugee to 87-year-old Clementina Suarez from Honduras.

The various countries represented by the poets have very different histories and consequently different relationships to the United States. Nicaragua has a successful revolution threatened by U. S. aggression. El Salvador is in the midst of a civil war. Panama has long been dominated by the

U. S. military protecting its access to the canal. For these poets the centrality of the impact of U. S. control emerges as a recurring theme woven in and around issues of sexism. When they talk of peace, it is freedom from this repressive relationship that they seek and it is against a backdrop of history as a vital, present force that they, as Central American women, are part of creating.

The first reader was Yolanda Blanco, a Nicaraguan who studies literature at the Central University of Venezuela, and has published four books of poetry. She organized some of the first all-women poetry readings in Nicaragua. After introducing herself and thanking the audience for their support, she reminded us that history is always in charge, a theme explored in the first poem she read, "A Dead Guerilla Explains." The guerilla recognizes the transitory nature of life but has chosen, instead of enjoying the short time that there is, to be even more transitory, "as a song or splat of machine gun fire," with the solace that "our cause is eternal, close at hand, and certain."

Another theme which emerged in Blanco's poems is one more common to North American feminist poetry. In several of her poems she explores the creation of the construct of "women" in contrast to how or who we are born. "Woman Round" is a celebratory piece, claiming her identity as a woman,

I am thankful for myself
the moons ruling my tides
that monthly blood that may
become my children
for the urgent vindication
of obscure and contemptible
laws
for all my submissive centuries
now suddenly audacious
for social rules that will
change
return me both day and night

In her poem "Meters," Blanco challenges the neutrality of feminine and masculine nouns in



Contributors to *Ixok Amar Go* include (clockwise from upper left): Bessy Reyna, Panama; Diana Avila, Costa Rica; Daisy Zamora, Nicaragua; Semiramis Barrientos, Honduras; Mirna Martinez, El Salvador; and Yolanda Blanco, Nicaragua.

Spanish. She lists some sharp gender contrasts:

She Orient, he Occident
She proletariat, he landowner
She Latin, he Anglosaxon
She slum, he metropolitan
She colonized, he imperialist

and concluding, she asks,

But have you not asked
yourself
Anglosaxon, imperialist,
metropolitan landowner
If my measuring stick is
another not yours...
I initiate my woman's
alphabet
foreign to your meters

Poet Bessy Reyna was born in Cuba, raised in Panama, and has been living in the U. S. since 1968. In addition to writing poetry, she is an editor and a lawyer. A sense

of painful irony growing out of the perspective of an expatriate emerges from her poems. In "Uncertainty" the point of reference seems both familiar and somewhat unreal.

and what called repression,
inflation, or coup d'etat

can have red wine and official
sanction
military uniforms or fixed
elections
while you try to control the
car passing other cars on a
curve

Continued on page 10

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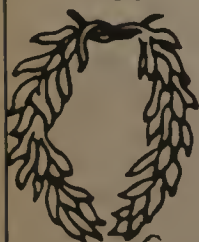
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Exhuming Keynes

How Did Gay Sex Affect

A review of Robert Skidelsky, *John Maynard Keynes; Hopes Betrayed 1883-1920*, Viking, New York, 1986.

and of Richard Deacon, *The Cambridge Apostles; A History of Cambridge University's Elite Intellectual Secret Society*, Farrar, Strauss and Giroux, New York, 1986.

By Bob Sutcliffe

Shortly after the death in 1945 of the century's most influential economist, John Maynard Keynes, one of his most renowned disciples was appointed to write the official biography. The biographer was Sir Roy Harrod — knight, don at one of Oxford University's most aristocratic colleges, famous economist in his turn. This paragon of ruling class virtue, honor and respectability proceeded to write a book which was, as Robert Skidelsky a bit self-righteously now demonstrates, a string of lies.

Harrod concealed the significant fact that Keynes was a conscientious objector during World War I (though paradoxically he did work in the British Treasury as an adviser during the war and was a member of the British delegation to the Versailles peace conference). He also falsified quotations from Keynes' letters in order to make his subject's language and opinions more acceptable.

But I presume that the most interesting lie for readers of this review and certainly for its writer, is Harrod's extraordinary effort to see that Keynes was interred not in a casket but in a closet. Harrod's mythical official Keynes was, at least until his marriage at the age of 40, a *virgo intacto*, pure as snow and with never a thought in his head except about formal logic or the rate of investment. It was the biography of a disembodied brain. Skidelsky has made good these deficiencies so that we now have the makings of a biography of the whole person — brain, heart and genitals.

While Harrod's 8-year-old Keynes was engaged in "healthy play," Skidelsky's Keynes was masturbating so much that his over-anxious parents had him circumcised. While Harrod's teenage Keynes at Eton College was cramming in the library, Skidelsky's Keynes was taking time off for different forms of cramming, getting his sexual initiation with other upper-class boys. While Harrod's undergraduate Keynes was the center of Cambridge intellectual life, Skidelsky's Keynes was also a central figure in a large group of young men who were constantly in and out of love with each other and occupied in attempts to recruit pretty new arrivals to their discussion societies and beds. The groups developed a positive "multiplier" of emotional and sexual relations.

While Harrod's young professional Keynes was pouring over documents in the India Office, Skidelsky's Keynes was writing long intimate letters to the great love of his early life, Duncan Grant the painter (the model of Duncan Forbes in D. H. Lawrence's *Lady Chatterley's Lover*).

When in 1913 Harrod's Keynes was engaged in high intellectual discussion at the annual meetings of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, Skidelsky's Keynes was thinking of getting back to his "quasi-hotel" where he was awaited by his 21-year-old working-class friend Francis St. George Nelson, a circus performer prone to clap and financial disasters (which Keynes used to bail him out of). One morning in 1915 when Harrod's Keynes was as usual in his office preparing documents on wartime finance, Skidelsky's Keynes was desperately looking for a new room in London after his landlady had threatened blackmail after finding out about his tendency to bring home men he picked up on the streets of London.

Keynes' homosexuality is not news. It was discussed in the shorter biography by Charlie Hession (which I reviewed for the most part in a positive way in *GCN* in October, 1984) and in earlier Bloomsbury group biographies of Lytton Strachey and E. M. Forster. But Skidelsky gives the fullest and most satisfactory picture of Keynes' sexuality yet available. This is first of all because he has had access to a broader range of biographical raw material than any other writer on Keynes (except for Harrod who misused it). In particular he employs the voluminous letters between Keynes and his sometimes lover and lifelong intimate friend Duncan Grant. Second, Skidelsky does not share Hession's unconvincingly fanciful notion that Keynes' radical economics were the direct result of his unconventional sexual propensities. Skidelsky, in fact, presents abundant evidence to suggest that during the years Keynes was most sexually active, almost entirely with men, and in which he most militantly preached sexual and existential unconventionality, his economics were still profoundly orthodox.

There is some sign, however, that Skidelsky shares Hession's naive assumption that Keynes' marriage (to the star of Diaghilev's *Ballet Russe*, Lydia Lopokova) implied his conversion to heterosexuality! We might imagine that Lydia's life led her to assume that all men were gay; although if Skidelsky has any revelations to make on whether Keynes and Lydia had a sexual relationship, we shall have to wait for them. The present volume takes Keynes' life only up to 1920 when he was 37 years old.



Some members of the Apostles in the 1930s: (left to right) Richard Llewellyn-Davies, Hugh Skyes Davies, Alister Watson, Anthony Blunt, Julian Bell and Andrew Cohen.

Six institutions dominated Keynes' life during these years: his close, middle-class, intellectual family; Eton College, Britain's most exclusive private secondary school; King's College of Cambridge University; the Apostles, a Cambridge society of which more in a moment; the British Treasury; and the Bloomsbury group of writers, artists, and intellectuals. This volume of the biography is about Keynes' life in those institutions. It is hardly a social history of Britain. But it adds significantly to the knowledge of a tiny elite which dominated and for the most part still dominates British political, administrative, academic and artistic life. Keynes was a member of this "Establishment," even if his sexual desires led him to construct part of his life outside its walls and which prevented him from feeling totally comfortable inside them.

Skidelsky, true to his training, has written a historian's account of Keynes' life. Only on two occasions does he allow himself to be drawn into major psychological speculations about his subject. In view of the naivete of his apparent view that all married men are straight, this is just as well. The two occasions, however, are both illuminating. The first concerns Keynes' relationship with his family. His father Neville Keynes was by conventional standards a success (he became the chief administrator of Cambridge University; but counted himself a failure because he had not managed to reach the dizzy academic heights to which he aspired. Neville became the impressario of his son's intellectual career and the close relationship between the two men resembled that between a musical prodigy and his promoter. Maynard Keynes became the vehicle through which his father vicariously attained his ambitions.

Skidelsky gives a convincing portrait of a relationship which surprisingly Keynes never appeared to find oppressive. It is tempting to go beyond the biography, however, and speculate about how much Keynes' secret sex life was his way of revolting against paternal domination, of finding his own private domain in which his father could not push him or instruct him or even know about. On one occasion, though, Keynes all but came out to his mother and sister, though the revelations were ambiguous and seem to have been willfully misinterpreted and not followed up.

Outside his family, however, in the haven of Cambridge and in particular the secret society known as the Apostles, Keynes boasted of his homosexuality which he shared with several of his student contemporaries, many of them also to become leading figures in British political, intellectual and literary life. While the pride of this group of very arrogant, young, upper-class men was not in many respects a precursor of contemporary gay liberation, it was a flaunting of sexual unconventionality with a certain radical intent, if only within a very limited social circle.

This is the point at which it is appropriate to mention the other book reviewed here, though any mention is too long to be deserved by this nasty little tract. Richard Deacon is a British journalist who has written a "history,"

more a historical gossip sheet, of the famous secret society. The Apostles were a self-selecting, male elite who for a brief moment around the time of Keynes' membership (early this century) happened to be a significant arena for philosophical debate between a few highly influential thinkers. At the same time a significant proportion of its members were gay. Keynes and some of his friends extolled what they mischievously called the "higher sodomy."

The society has since acquired a more scurrilous reputation in the western press. In the 1930s a number of its members became communists of a kind and were later at the center of a spy case which has obsessed the popular press off and on from 1950 until the 1980s. This group included Anthony Blunt and Guy Burgess, another part of whose life was depicted in the upper-class soap opera movie, *Another Country*.

It is hard to imagine how Richard Deacon managed to write this book because there are two things in life which seem to send him into near total apoplexy. One is homosexuality and the other is spying against one's country (as long as it's an anti-communist one). Deacon provides a skimpy history of the Apostles, marked by a high level of philosophical illiteracy, a low command of English style and an indescribable level of paranoid homophobia and anti-communism. One example is enough to illustrate the point: the homosexuals in the Apostles, Deacon says,

may not always have had their own way and heterosexuals may have predominated outwardly but their scheming and solidarity with one another and not least their almost in-born cunning (partly due to a feeling of being liable to some kind of persecution) have all been extremely effective. This has extended to influences in other fields — in politics, diplomacy, the Civil Service, literature, the arts generally and, more surprisingly, into the sphere of the intelligence services.

His style acquires considerable momentum in such passages, perhaps because he didn't write them himself but copied them from some Nazi propaganda sheet. In the forlorn hope that he reads these words let me reveal to him that these people exist EVEN IN NEWSPAPER OFFICES. With a bit of luck this terrifying revelation will either cause him to enter permanent coma or at the very least refrain from bothering us ever again with such worthless filth as contained in this book.

So, with a sigh of relief, let's get back to Skidelsky's life of Keynes. After the Apostles and some years working in the India Office and teaching (very orthodox) economics at Cambridge University, Keynes spent the whole of the First World War planning British economic policy in the Treasury. A conscientious objector but not a pacifist, Keynes nonetheless rationalized that he could influence the outcome for good if he occupied a position of influence. Despite his view, expressed to Duncan Grant, that "I work for a government I despise for ends I think criminal," he was gripped by a phenomenal desire to feel important. This he ultimately became to an extent he could

Keynes' Closet

Economist's Radicalism?

not have even imagined during the years covered by this volume.

But his role in the war was to lose him standing in another sphere — among his friends of the Bloomsbury Group. Keynes was never a central member of the group but he was an important bridge between it and the “real world.” He helped members of the group with money, legal and political advice, and so on. He lived in one of the famous Bloomsbury houses where these radical intellectuals practiced their experiments in communal living. These, it appears, consisted of having meals cooked in common (by servants in the kitchen!) who then left separate trays in the hall for each of the inhabitants to carry off individually and eat in their own room! Skidelsky does not add much to what is known from other sources of the internal life of the group; but his attention to Keynes' role helps to put Bloomsbury more in a political context.

During the war most members of the group espoused neutralist pacifism. Keynes' role in the government strained the already difficult relations between him and the others, particularly Virginia Woolf. But it was Lytton Strachey who expressed the views of the group with greatest impatience. On one occasion in 1916 he left Keynes a copy of a barbaric militaristic speech by a leading politician together with a brief note saying, “Dear Maynard, Why are you still in the Treasury? Yours, Lytton.”

This was the latest of a series of bitter battles with

tionalism and generosity in international politics. It is liberalism at its best and it did serve to reconcile Keynes with his adopted Bloomsbury family of avant-garde liberals on whom he depended almost totally for personal friendship.

Keynes' closest and most rewarding relationship during this first half of his adult life was with the painter Duncan Grant, personally probably the central figure of the group. For two years they were lovers. For years after the ending of their affair in 1910 they remained the most intimate of friends and Keynes would frequently reveal himself in letters to Grant. During and after the war Keynes was a frequent weekend visitor to the country cottage where Grant lived with his lover David Garnett. Keynes would go there to escape from the cares of state — accompanied by his two female maids!

Keynes' class position as a somewhat unconventional member of the intellectual ruling class gave him not only material privileges which he took for granted but also a certain privileged insulation from the confines of conventional bourgeois sexual morality. He remained in the closet as far as his public image was concerned but could to some extent emerge from it in the rarefied circles in which he moved. He remained more secretive than his much more flamboyant friend Lytton Strachey; but his closet seems to have been much more spacious than that of his fellow Bloomsbury associate E. M. Forster.



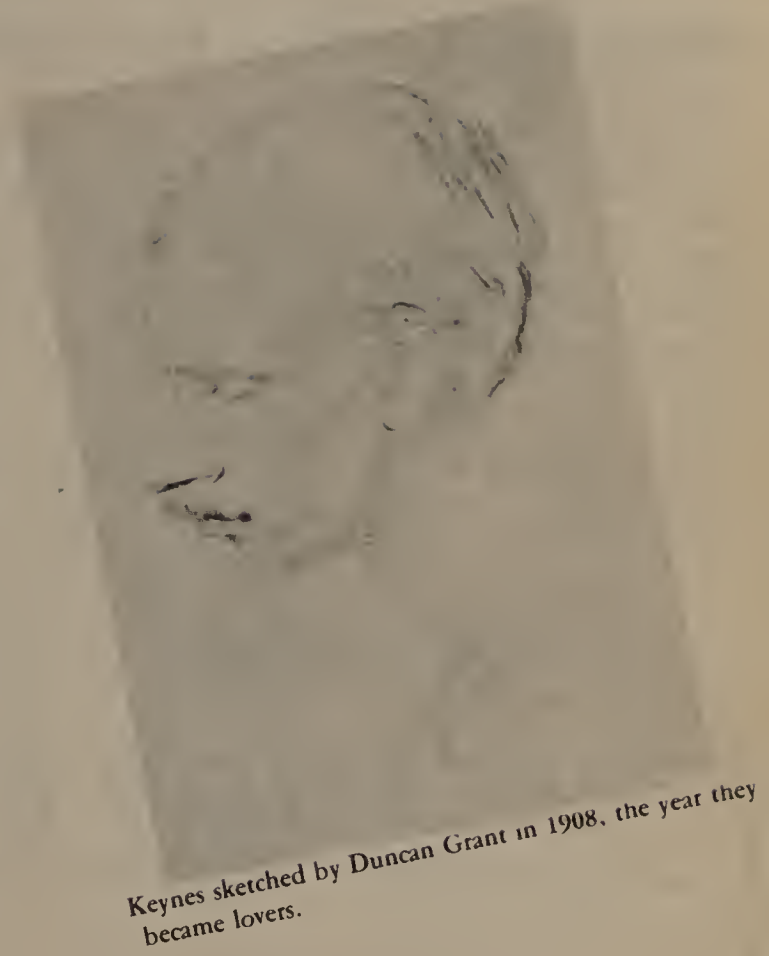
John Maynard Keynes, 1908; watercolor by Gwen Raverat.

Strachey dating from 1908 when their friendship was soured by the start of the love affair between Keynes and Duncan Grant, with whom Strachey was deeply infatuated. Strachey, hitherto one of Keynes' closest friends and certainly his most intimate confidant on sexual matters, had been deeply wounded by Keynes' “theft” of his beloved. Strachey complained then in a letter to his brother that “They've kept it horribly secret. He has come to me reeking with that semen, he has never thought that I should know.” In 1916 Keynes himself seemed to his Bloomsbury friends to reek of the blood so casually spilled by his political bosses.

Skidelsky's second major psychological insight in this volume relates to the consequences of these strains. He argues that Keynes was hurt and guilt-stricken by the hostility of his only close friends. And it was as if to expiate the guilt that in 1919 he wrote what Skidelsky quite rightly argues is his best book — *The Economic Consequences of Peace*. This was a passionate denunciation of the vindictive anti-German treaty which the allied politicians at Versailles had imposed upon the defeated nation. Keynes argued that this settlement was economically absurd because it imposed a debt on Germany equal to three times its Gross National Product and prevented the Germans from earning a surplus to repay any of this debt. Such madness combined with the political vindictiveness of the treaty would stir up mischief in the future. Keynes was being more prophetic than he could know. Even today it is hard not to be impressed with this book as a bitter and eloquent plea for ra-

The lives of these two men overlapped in many ways. And recently a new posthumous parallel has emerged in that each of them has been the subject of a major biography which among other things opened the door of their closets. I do not mean to detract from the excellence of Skidelsky's work when I say that P. N. Furbank's biography of Forster is at the personal level more sympathetic and richer. This is partly because the often arrogant and overbearing Keynes is a less sympathetic subject than the more self-effacing and sentimental Forster. It is also partly because Skidelsky writes as a historian about an essentially political figure while Furbank has produced almost a novel about an essentially literary figure.

The Bloomsbury group has provided an incredibly rich seam of materials for memoir writers and biographers. In addition to Furbank and now Skidelsky there is Michael Holroyd's life of Lytton Strachey, Leonard Woolf's massive autobiography and the personal memoirs of other members of the group. Because they were all so literate they perhaps loom larger than they deserve in the intellectual and literary history of the 20th century. Yet in the case of Keynes we are dealing with one of the formative influences on politics of our century. Most writers of Bloomsbury have tended to marginalize the more worldly Keynes. Skidelsky shows him, however, as deeply dependent personally on the group and this makes for a somewhat different perspective on the role of the group as a whole. If Eton and Cambridge nurtured the conservative side of Keynes' character, Bloomsbury helped to draw out its radical side.



Keynes sketched by Duncan Grant in 1908, the year they became lovers.

That theme will no doubt be expanded in Skidelsky's next volume. There we can expect to see the development of Keynes' special contribution to economics. Up to 1920, Skidelsky argues, Keynes, remaining under the influence of G. E. Moore's anti-utilitarian moral philosophy, continued to regard economics as a branch of logic and not of ethics. Skidelsky's analysis of the origins of Keynes' writing on the post-war settlement seems to suggest that his Bloomsbury friends were the crucial influence in beginning to reverse that outlook and so lay the foundation of Keynes' critique, albeit a liberal and somewhat utopian one, of the capitalist system. By 1920, however, the intellectual revolution in modern economics which Keynes later effected was not yet visible. Ironically, Keynes was contemptuous of the ideas of an economist of the time, A. J. Hobson, who in retrospect was clearly a precursor of the ideas that Keynes was later to express in a more sophisticated and influential way. And he never had the intellectual generosity publicly to revise his opinion of Hobson.

Since Keynes is a man whose ideas and actions profoundly affected the politics of the world, it is widely assumed that he was a man of strongly held political views. In the United States before Nixon came out as a Keynesian in 1970, it was common to regard Keynes as the equivalent of Lenin.

Skidelsky shows that Keynes was consistently and vigorously opposed to Marxism which he regarded as the *reductio ad absurdum* of Benthamite ethics (how ironic that Marx regarded Bentham as the *reduction ad absurdum* of liberalism.) Keynes flirted for a time with Fabian socialism and undoubtedly hated Tories. He welcomed the February 1917 revolution in Russia as the only good result of the war. He was contemptuous of the working class though he spent a fair amount of time in bed with some of its younger male members (pun intended).

He was deeply embedded in the establishment and yet did not feel truly comfortable with this position, choosing to spend his personal life among its more morally eccentric members. Skidelsky reports that when Keynes first reached the illustrious position of a Cambridge don, he expressed his distance from that establishment by writing to Strachey: “I play the part admirably, perhaps it belongs to me, but I should like to rape an undergraduate in the Combination Room just to make them see things a little more in their true light.”

Keynes shared the racist assumptions of his class. On a visit to the United States he condescendingly found that the only good thing about the country was the “niggers” who were “perfectly charming”; he expressed anti-Semitic assumptions and yet fell in love with Dr. Melchior, a German Jewish banker who was a member of Germany's post-war negotiating team. While working at the India Office he seems to have been little if at all concerned with the lives of Britain's colonial subjects. And yet by 1920 Keynes had become, as a result of *The Economic Consequences of Peace*, a world-famous political radical. Skidelsky's biography helps an understanding of this paradox by locating Keynes in relation to the Bloomsbury group, by describing the links between public passion and private shame.

On the evidence of this volume, Skidelsky's biography may be a definitive one, although Charles Hession's book on Keynes remains worth reading, partly for its shorter length, partly because, unlike Skidelsky's, it is an economist's biography and deals very well with the development of Keynes' ideas. As a factual account of Keynes' life, Skidelsky's book completely replaces Harrod's; ironically it endows that professor's work with a new interest — as a minor work in the great genre of disinformation.

Feminist/Lesbian Press Brings Latina Poets to Boston

Continued from page 7

thinking about money you
don't have for the rent
and how to get it

She looks at things both as an
insider and an outsider, a position
familiar to gay people, illuminat-
ing them in all their complexity,
recognizing that there are not sim-
ple answers to resort to. From
"What Then,"

now,
when our last hope
is almost gone
when I don't know the
place
or the hour
or the password
all I have left is to hit the
books and let them transform
themselves slowly into guns

Her poems capture a dialectic be-
tween perspectives whether it be
herself and the sleeplessness, a sex-
ist husband and his oppressed
wife, a sexist society and the inter-
nalized fantasy of a happily mar-
ried woman, or the poet and her
lover shifting between sep-
arateness and fusion in "Oh the
Battlefield of Your Body." Reyna
left me with the feeling that this
dialectic continues for her even
after her poems are written.

The youngest poet to read was
Mirna Martinez, a 20-year-old stu-
dent of literature from El Salvador
where she is also a member of the
Cultural Workers Association. Her
poems blended humor with
seriousness, creating a sense of

hope in a situation filled with
anguish and fear. In her poem,
"To My Guardian Angel" she
welcomes the angel's support
while detailing the dangers to be
taken on in providing it. Finally
the poet accepts the help with a
warning,

Think it over good because if
you go back
see to it that you go with me
to dig out the future
so once and for all
you won't have to be at my
side
and can go your own way
free of all earthly obligations
free to organize the antispot
struggle way up there
She creates both a visual and

emotional impact by setting a
scene and building tension with the
structure of her poem that mirrors
the situation she is writing about.
In her poem "For a Prostitute,"
she situates the prostitute on one
side of the street and the poet on
the other, obviously waiting to
make a political connection. Mar-
tinez writes of what separates them
and the hopes she has that her
struggle will bring them together.

We are building a new col-
lective day
where the collective includes
you
I swear this will take place
And I know it though today
you wouldn't understand the
words
and regardless you couldn't
hear me
because you're not on this side
of the street not even close
to my spot which I have to
leave now
because my appointment with
your future has arrived

The hope that resounds in her
poetry is matched by a commit-
ment to struggle. Martinez's work
is distinguished by the juxtaposi-
tion of concrete details like lay-
ing asphalt and reducing the mor-
tality rate against inspirational
ideology.

You, who will come
and who are still unborn
you will have the historic
obligation
to love in a way we've been
denied

The final set of poems, written
by Daisy Zamora, were read by
Blanco, Anglesy and Denise
Levertov in Zamora's absence. A
Nicaraguan, Zamora was active in
the struggle against Somoza, direc-
ting the programming of Radio
Sandino while it was underground
from May through July of 1979.
Since then she has been Vice
Minister of Culture.

Her poems were very physical.
In "What Hands in My Hands,"
she describes the hands of her
parents and grandparents detailing
features which reveal a relatively
privileged background and she
wonders about the influence they
have had on her.

For so many hands that have
met here

I get these hands...
When I caress your back
your bony feet
your solid legs
what hands in my hands
caress you

In a poem she refers to as an
autobiography through her feet,
she describes where and in what
kind of shoe her feet have walked,
from the high-heeled dancing shoe
of her adolescence to the tennis
shoes she wore while working as
the voice of clandestine Radio
Sandino.

I look at these feet
now walking freely in sandals,
heels, or militia boots
the bone of my instep I get
from my grandfather
And I no longer know when
I'll go out
planting the soles of my feet
in this new land
where each person gives to the
other
in order to build along with it
the future for all

Two of Zamora's other poems
about waitresses resonated with
commonalities of a job that is
often relegated to women. It is
these illuminations of what is com-
mon to women's experiences, and
what is different, that makes the
publication of this anthology so
important and exciting. If the
poetry reading was a represen-
tative sampling of what the an-
thology will include, Granite Press
will definitely succeed in making
available a rich and rewarding way
for women and men in the U. S. to
learn more about the multifaceted
struggle for liberation that we all
face.

*I want to note that this was an
entirely bilingual poetry reading
done with grace and illustrating
that translating need not be
tedious. Midge Kaplan of Boston
Women's Community Radio
taped the reading (a copy of which
helped me enormously) and ex-
cerpts will be aired on the Interna-
tional Women's Day broadcast.*

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Homophobia Connects Wimps and Feminists

Continued from page 6

dinance, if a couple of drag queens, or boys from the local leather bar, want to rent an abode in an apartment complex (of three or more units) wherein the owner and his middle-class family reside, they must be welcomed — you should pardon the expression — with open arms." One notices that Feder doesn't really seem comfortable in arguing his case unless he returns to his polarities, the macho man and the wimp, in this case,

"drag queens" and the "boys from the local leather bar."

In the same column, Feder comments on AIDS with that command of knowledge and expression which come together so agreeably in his brain. "Indiscriminate copulation has led to a biological backlash of staggering proportions." So much for the etiology of AIDS.

"Gay rights is the Trojan horse of the Sodom and Gomorrah

culture, a clear danger to the moral and physical health of our nation. It's not up to the government to punish homosexuality; heaven will see to that. But we must resist the call to sanctify sin."

What can one do with such reasoning? I'm afraid the best one can do with Feder and his arguments is to follow his prescription and leave him to heaven.

5/26/86. Feder links an article by a self-styled liberal in the New York Times, who examines her homophobia and is discomfited by what she finds, and the progress of Vanessa Redgrave's law suit against the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

Gay activism and Vanessa Redgrave and her politics are lumped together and damned by Feder as indications of liberal iniquity. Feder describes Redgrave's politics as "somewhere to the left of Charlie Manson."

With equal perception, Feder comments on gays: "We've gone from decriminalizing homosexuality, to forcing objecting

heterosexuals to associate with gays (via anti-discrimination statutes in housing and unemployment), to the attitude that it's immoral to feel any antipathy toward such perversion."

He links Redgrave and gay activism to the permissiveness of liberals. He concludes his symphony of hate with this coda: "We must now be indulgent of every bizarre sexual behavior and murderous political views alike."

When he has nothing better to do, Feder can always reach back to his Joe McCarthy roots and red-bait and gay-bait at the same time. It's called guilt by association: mention a great actress with esoteric political views, attack her as a communist in the same column in which you condemn gays, and people may subliminally connect gays with anomalous Marxists.

6/16/86. Feder decries DC

Continued on page 12

Gerald Flynn

By Michael Bronski and Ronn Jackson

BOSTON — On December 30, friends and family attended a candlelight service in memory of Gerry Flynn, a gay man who had died a few days before, on the 27th. The commemoration, conducted by Rev. Carpenter of the Arlington Street Church, was held in the Fenway Victory Gardens at the garden which Flynn had cultivated for more than ten years. Gerry Flynn was a familiar sight in the Fens and could be seen working several hours every day on his garden which had the reputation for being one of the most lush and productive in the area.

Born in Pembroke, Mass. Flynn was a long-time resident of the Fenway neighborhood. Besides his visibility as a gardener he was also best known from 1982 to 1984 as the

inventive cook behind Boston Ramrod's Sunday buffet. Many times using vegetables from his own garden, Gerry Flynn produced culinary treats which went far beyond the average range of bar food. Using his "gay name," Flora, the bar dubbed the weekly dinner "Flora's Fabulous Buffet."

Gerry Flynn was diagnosed as having PCP during Thanksgiving week. Although he recovered from the original infection, he succumbed to another bout of the pneumonia and died on December 27. He will be missed by his many friends in the neighborhood, the Fens and the Ramrod.

Postscript: There will be another service in Gerry's memory this spring when gardening activity begins again.

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Homophobia Connects Wimps and Feminists

Continued from page 11

Comics decision to make Superman more relevant to contemporary society. According to a V.P. at DC, "Everything is going to be redefined from the perspective of the times." Superman will be "open about his feelings" and "upwardly mobile." Feder sadly quotes the V.P., neither one realizing that Superman is and always has been quintessentially "up-

wardly mobile."

Feder comments that the "Man of Steel" is soon to become the "Man of Mush." The wimpification of Superman is underway," writes Feder manfully choking back his tears. Feder is even more concerned that Superman will "perhaps become bisexual."

Talk about *reduction ad absurdum*!

11/3/86. Feder castigates Surgeon General C. Everett Koop for advocating more public education, particularly for school age children, about AIDS. He whimsically suggests that the conservative Dr. Koop should be given "a frontal lobotomy." He is aghast that Koop suggests such education for 8-year-olds, which he terms "the liberal stand on erotic indoctrination."

A further example of Feder's rabid hyperbole is the following: "The spread of AIDS could be largely halted if homosexuals chose to practice certain precautions in their carnal pursuits." What about AIDS amongst heterosexuals and drug addicts? And wouldn't the very education that Feder derides be useful in educating gays "in their carnal pursuits?" Indeed "the spread of AIDS could have been largely

halted" if both homosexuals and heterosexuals used condoms and drug addicts didn't share needles.

Feder is horrified that if AIDS education is taught in schools it will be sickly o'er with a pale cast of National Education Association thought which he damns for "embracing gay rights and free access to abortion."

Furthermore, so-called "liberal" teachers will be teaching "about sodomy — in a favorable light."

12/8/86. Feder, in defense of traditional childhood role playing, attacks a toy firm, Play Fair, that offers "nonsexist, nonviolent, nonracist toys."

Feder is afraid that such play things may result in children becoming "psychologically neutered, liberated from biological imperatives," or that young boys' ambitions may tend to, heaven

forbid, "a hairdressing salon" or "an interior decorator's studio." And that children with these toys may not be given the chance "to grow up to be men and women." He concludes his jeremiad with this warning to parents who give their children Play Fair toys: "you too can raise your kid to be an androgynous, anti-nuclear activist avocado — caring as Alan Alda, committed as a peace marcher, and a thorough-going wimp."

To quote such a sanctimonious, self-appointed Pooh-bah of morality at length is, I think, necessary, to catch the fear and loathing of homosexuality that lurks so insistently beneath the skin of his rhetoric. That he reflects the view of so many is frightening, even though his ratiocinations appear so fragile, so breakable, so laughable.

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BOSTON BAY REALTY
668 Tremont St.
Boston, MA 02118
262-7386

COMMODORE REALTY &

INVESTMENT GROUP
David J. Vieira, Broker/Owner
P.O. Box 312
Hyde Park, MA 02136
(617) 364-1507

INNOVATIVE MOVES REAL ESTATE

Full Service Brokerage
Trisha Solio, Barry Wing
9 Warren Square
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
(617) 522-2896/ 524-6074

VICTORIAN BOSTON PROPERTIES

Real Estate Brokerage & Investments
577 Tremont St.
Boston, MA 02118
536-8700

ROLFING

LISA TACKLEY
Certified Rolfer
45 Newbury St., #333
Boston, MA 02116
782-1952/266-8584

ROOFING

GREAT ROOFS
P.O. Box M, Astor Station
Boston, MA 02123
282-7078

TAXES & FINANCIAL

PLANNING
MARJORIE E. POSNER
Cert. Financial Planner
33 Ashcroft St.
Jamaica Pl., MA 02130
524-7565

TRAVEL

FOREX TRAVEL
76 Arlington St.
Boston Park Plaza
482-2900

ITA TRAVEL SERVICES

370 Mystic Ave.
Somerville, MA 02145
776-4340

CLASSIFIEDS CLASSIFIEDS

GCN SEEKS NEW HOME

It appears that our building has been sold and the new owners want to tear it down as soon as possible. Please consider all the ways you could help: Help us search for possible spaces available immediately. Spaces should have 2000 sq. ft. or so of floor space, be reasonably near public transportation and not cost more than \$1000 per month. Consider a donation of time and/or money for the inevitable moving costs. Be prepared to come by a few times to lend a hand packing boxes. Call us-we have many suggestions as to how you could help. GCN is run by its membership. We look to you for help. Please contact the GCN MOVE folks at 426-4469. (C)

PERSONALS

LF 36 seeking stable minded woman. Likes dancing, restaurants, movies, weekend trips. Have a sense of humor. But something is missing. Box 166. (25)

WHY HAVEN'T YOU BEEN MEETING THE RIGHT PEOPLE?

Because you haven't called **BUDDIES**! **BUDDIES**-the personalized introduction service with the largest gay clientele in N.E. Call (603) 880-7625. (28)

SINGLE, FEMALE AND GAY?

Looking for a permanent relationship, a deeply satisfying friendship or a companion who shares your interests and attitudes? **WOMAN TO WOMAN** is for you! The professional introduction service for lesbians in New England area. Call (603) 882-6670. (28)

PERSONAL PROFILES

by Louise Delaria
Teaches you to read hands (palmistry). Whole-person viewpoint, feminist orientation. Call 395-4819 for info. (28)

I LOVE YOU, SARA K.

Happy birthday, my dearest S. May the strength of the Amazons keep you safe for all your years to come! C. (24)

LONELY DYKE AD

Looking for friends and possible playmates: thirty-ish, chubby, lately into S/M, motorcycles and myself, but with a background of leftist activity + and open to new things. Please write GCN Box 165. Phone # gets response!! (25)

Articulate, handsome, well-travelled, socialist, gentle, sometimes strident, bearded man (43) who lives in Maine and writes on Germany looking for an intelligent and energetic boyfriend (under 25). I'd be delighted to get to know you. Bos 164. (28)

SPREAD IT AROUND.

Know of anyplace where people would be interested in picking up GCN? Are you interested in taking some GCN's to one of your favorite hangouts? Give us a call at 426-4469 and ask for Catherine or Dan. Thanks for any help you can give us! (25)

GIVESAVEGIVESAVEGIVESAVE SAVEGIVESAVEGIVESAVEGIVE

What holiday gift is sale-priced now through Jan. 30?

What holiday gift is everybody talking about?

What holiday gift is new & original each week of the year?

Check the pages of GCN for the answer! (C)

CIRCULATION SIDEKICK

GCN's busy Circulation Manager needs some help. The world of circulation can be yours! You'll do loads of boring repetitive office work. Think of it as a form of meditation. A couple of hours a week will do, anytime during the day, any day of the week. Some office skills required. For more information, call Marcos at 426-4469. (C)

PICK UP YOUR MAIL, PLEASE

Box numbers 74, 78, 79, 94, and Yale Alum - the world awaits your reply! (C)

BAIL FUND

A brother in struggle needs your help. Terry Cannon needs the help of his community. Please send any contribution large or small to: The Terry Cannon Bail Fund C/O Gay Community News, 167 Tremont St. Suite IC Boston, MA 02111. (28)

COME VISIT CUBA

Join 200 people from the U.S. for a 2 week trip with the Venceremos Brigade (V.B.). Visit schools, factories, and health centers. Meet with members of Cuban community groups, unions and women's organizations. Attend seminars on international issues and participate in a voluntary work project. \$700. To apply write to: V.B., Box 832, J.P. MA 02130 by 2/1. (25)

POSITION WANTED

GM seeks work. Able to perform many maintenance and auxiliary office functions; envelope stuffing, labeling, errands, etc. Have current refs. Call Ronn at 426-4469 or write..... (25)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRIDE OPEN HOUSE

Boston's Lesbian and Gay Pride Planning Committee will hold an open house January 22, 1987 to welcome all interested community members. Take this opportunity to put your ideas into action. Call 267-2150 for details. (27)

WELLESLEY LESBIAN ALUMNAE

Network forming, interested? Send name, address, ideas to PO Box 2347, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130. (27)

University of Massachusetts Medical School GALA. Student BOX 605, Worcester, MA 01605. (26)

EDITORIAL HELP.

Volunteers needed to edit copy, answer correspondence, perform general office tasks. Time commitment: 2 hrs weekly minimum. Weekdays & Thurs. and Fri. nights; possible take home work. Call Lole, 426-4469. (C)

JEWISH LESBIAN DAUGHTERS OF HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS

The next gathering will be held in the Boston area, during the weekend of March 27th. We meet for support & networking and welcome contact from other Jewish Lesbian Daughters of Holocaust Survivors. Now, a partners group has also been formed for women who are in relationship with JLDHS. Membership is not dependent on both partners. For information, write Box 6194, Boston, MA 02114 or call (617) 321-4254. (35)

OFF LINE AND INACCESSIBLE! OUR TDD IS NOT WORKING!

We hope this problem will be resolved soon. Fix-it people are encouraged to call 426-4469 and ask for Catherine. Sorry, voice line only. (28)

HELP WANTED

SOUTH AFRICA ACTIVIST

Person with organizing experience wanted for anti-apartheid and related Southern Africa work, as well as a variety of other responsibilities. 40-50 hrs/wk. \$12,000 and benefits. Women and people of color especially encouraged to apply. Write or call for job description to Hiring Committee, Boston Mobilization for Survival, 11 Garden St. Cambridge, MA 02138 (617) 354-0008. (25)

RESORTS

GREENHOPE FARM

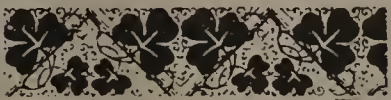
Woman-only space in Vermont. Cozy mt. inn. Wood fires, delicious veg. meals. Horseback riding. X-country ski from our door. Downhill nearby. Farm animals. Solstice celebrations. (802) 533-7772. RFD Box 2260, E. Hardwick, VT 05836. (26)

CHECK'ER OUT AT THE CHECK'ER INN

Double rooms, coffee by fireside, parking. Apartments also available. 1 block bay, open year 'round. 487-9029, 25 Winthrop St. Provincetown MA 02657. (20)

WINTER WONDERLAND

The down-home place of your dreams in north country New Hampshire. Cross-country ski from our back door, warm up in the hot tub. Down-hill skiing, sleigh rides & skating nearby. You owe yourself a visit to the Highlands Inn. (603) 869-3978. Box 118G Bethlehem, NH 03574. Grace & Judi, Inn keepers. (34)



HELP WANTED

GCN JOB OPENING

GCN is seeking a **CIRCULATION MANAGER/STAFF WRITER**. Begin 1-3/87. Research and write news stories of int to nat'l readership. Coordinate w/ky mailing of paper by volunteers, process subs and renewals. Requires writing skills + abll to work w/deadlines, interpersonal, org record-keeping skills. Knowledge of data entry and/or computers helpful. Position requires familiarity w/gay and lesbian community; commitment to gay and lesbian liberation, feminism, anti-racism, and collective decision making; awareness of class issues. Sal \$180/wk + 4 wks pd vac. complete health/life ins. Resumes to GCN Circ/Writer Search, 167 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02111. Lesbians and gay men of color particularly encouraged to apply. (C)

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HELP WANTED

Live In maintenance/housekeeping position for women's guesthouse in Provincetown. Immediate year round opening. Gabriel's. (617) 487-3232. (27)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

National Lawyers Guild. Progressive legal organization. Fundraising, organizing, admin. Exp. desires. Wkg knowledge NLG preferred. \$30,000 + benefits. Starts 6/1. Resume & letter to NLG-PO 853 Broadway, 17 fl, NYC 10003. Deadline 2-26-87. (26)

RARE OPPORTUNITY

NH based Professional Gay Introduction Service seeks ambitious, career-minded, and responsible individual with ability to deal with people effectively. Sales experience a plus. Salary + commission. Excellent earning potential. Hours 12 to 8 p.m. Call (603) 880-7626. (26)

DISABLED LESBIAN NEEDS ATTENDANT

Personal care for disabled Lesbian art therapist. \$140 clear for 48 hr shift/\$210 clear for 72 hr shift.

I am paralysed from the neck down. I need attendants. I prefer to hire Lesbians. Most women who work for me stay an average of 1-2 years. This means I need to fill at least 2 or 3 positions a year. I need women now and will need more women over the next year. I need women who will be my body and help me do my art, accompany me on speaking engagements, write for me, help me draw with my mouth, feed me, dress and toilet me, all under my direction.

If you have a drivers license, are able to lift 110 lbs, are a light sleeper, non smoker, responsible and able to follow directions, and are interested in learning new skills, please call Connie Panzarino at 524-0921. (30)

The Fabulous

INKETONES
SO, ROCK & ROLL BAND

are looking for an experienced lead guitar/keyboards/vocalist. Must have own equipment, exp. w/touring & music arranging; easy w/character-acting. Only professionals apply. Send resume, audition tape & pic.: 20 Cumberland, San Francisco, CA 94110. Final deadline: 1/15/87. (415) 821-3534. (25)

PART TIME ATTENDANT

Care for dis feminist writer. Hrs. needed very flex, weekend am. vital, others avail, ask. No lifting nec, but I prefer those w/strength & balance. Exp not nec, will train, but need reliable (male too!) feminists. Call 232-5956 pm. Let phone ring. (26)

FOREX TRAVEL

76 Arlington St. Phone 482-2900

ALL FARES ROUND TRIP				RSVP <i>A Cruise to Remember</i> February 14-21, 1987 March 21-28, 1987 Meet 750 New Faces in 1987! From \$795.00
Amsterdam	\$398	San Francisco	\$238	
Brussels	\$388	Cancun	\$349	
Dublin	\$399	Tokyo	\$699	
Santo Domingo	\$305	Rio (NYC)	\$599	
San Juan	\$202	Detroit	\$118	
Los Angeles	\$238	Honolulu	\$558	
Orlando	\$178	Montreal	\$102	
Mexico City	\$372	Washington	\$91	

Lowest Prices

All Airlines

Gabriel Brooke, Innkeeper

Gabriel's

apartments & guest rooms for women & their friends

Open Year Round
Cable TV & Coffee (617) 487-3232
Hot Tub & Sun Deck 104 Bradford Street
In the Center of Town Provincetown, MA 02657

OFF-SEASON DISCOUNT COUPON
Reserve two nights between October 20th and April 15th and get the third night free with this coupon
Please call for reservations and mention this ad

ORGANIZATIONS

D.O.B

Support organization for lesbians, 1151 Mass Ave, Camb. OCBC. Raps every Tues, Thurs at 8pm. Special raps for 35+, parents, ynger women, baby boomers, singles, coming out, issues forum. All 8pm. Monthly events, outing club, library. Info: 661-3633. All women invited to participate. (V14.35)

BLACK AND WHITE MEN TOGETHER
Multiracial group for all people. Call (415) 431-1976 or write BWMT, suite 140, 580 Castro St. SF, CA, 94114. (V14.15)

LESBIANS

Are you lesbian, Bisexual or unsure? Looking for a group to go to? Come join us at BAGLY. Call Tony, 497-8282 (V14.32)

PROJECT TRUTH/FREE WILL

Info packet on police abuse of gay teens, and ways it can be stopped. 1 yr membership \$20. Info \$2 (for postage & printing) to: Project TRUTH/Free Will, PO Box 244, Paramus, NJ 07653-0244. (14.9)

MAN/BOY LOVE

A support group for intergenerational relationships. For more information send \$1 to: NAMBLA-GCNAD at 537 Jones ST. NO 8418, S.F. CA 94102 or PO Box 174, New York, New York 10018. (V15.23)

CLASSIFIED AD FORM

*DEADLINE: Tuesday, noon.
All ads

**TRY GCN's
"GUARANTEED
ROOMMATE" AD**
GCN's "Guaranteed Roommate" offer
All Roommate and Housemate Ads
that are Prepaid for Two Weeks
We will run until you find a roommate.
Ads will not be automatically renewed. You
must call in every additional week you want
the ad to run. Phone calls will be accepted
all day Mondays and Tuesdays till noon.

ROOMMATE WANTED

L cpl seek 3rd LF to share 3 bdrm apt in
Everett. Close to bus/T. Smokers okay,
no drugs, no pets. Must be considerate,
quiet. \$222+ util. Avail Now. Call
389-1396, lv message. (25)

LF 25+ to share nice 5 room apt in Nor-
wood. All furnished; clean, neat and
safe too. Avail Feb. 1st. \$225 plus util.
Call 762-2078. Sorry no pets. (26)

Seeking 1 LF for 4 woman household.
We have 3 cats and 1 smoker. Rent is
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Gay male with health problem seeks
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2 bdrm apt in the So. End area. \$250+
util. 338-0858. (26)

GM w/m-cat lkg 4 apt or rmt 2 shr apt
by 4/1. Max rent \$350 inc util. Yr sx-pref
no iss. Interested-hav frnt int, call
George: 288-7626. 6-10PM. (26)

Som: 3 LF seek 4th for spacious
apt. \$218+ ut. No drugs, lite alc.
628-4532 lv message. Avail immed. (26)

3 Somerville gay men seek 4th pperson
(M or F), to share 4 bdrm. apt. close to T
bus and train (Porter Sq.). Rent
\$185+ util. Tolerance of and/or interent
in Neo-Paganism a plus! Call (617)
629-2518. (26)

BROOKLINE/BOSTON

GF 35, seeks mat. considerate clean
GF spirtl. veg. Would be nice no hvy
drugs, alc-smk ok for rent cont. nice 2
bdr. apt on Green line. \$257.50 inclcs
heat, no pets. ASAP. 232-3139. (26)

LF sks LF or LF couple to shr hse in Lit-
tleton on lake. Alc+drg free. no
smk/pets. 12 stepper or veggie a plus.
\$350-650+. Call Annie 486-3791. (25)

NATICK HOME TO SHARE

L cpl, son + pets seek quiet LF to share
3 BR dplx. Close to T. No hvy smker or
pets please. \$350 incl all. Avail now.
Leave message 655-8331. (25)

ARLINGTON

Feminist and/or lesbian woman wanted
for lovely duplex with 1F, 1M. Deck,
fireplace, close to pond and MBTA —
646-7968. (25)

WARM EVERETT

2LF seek 3rd (25+) for 3BR apt. in
Everett Sq. \$200/mo (heat incl.) 3 cats,
no more pets. Sense of humor/absurd
welcome. Nr. bus and Orange Line. Ann
426-4469 (day), 387-5831 (eve.) (C)

LESBIAN FEMINIST COOP—JP

needs 2 LFs to join in beautiful apt near
orange line. Share food, resp, chores.
No smk, cats, drg, min alc. Let's create
a home. \$267+. 522-2921. (25)

Seeking LF to share furn 2 bdrm apt in
Boston. Near T. Pkg avail, laundry, pool,
garden. Must be neat/resp. No smokers/
pets. \$375 incl. heat. 536-0147. (25)

MEDFORD NEAR TUFTS

2 LFs sk 3rd woman 25+, semi-veg, no
smoke, shr food & some meals. Have
cat, no dogs. On qt st, prkg. W/D, yard.
300+ heat. 395-9021. (25)

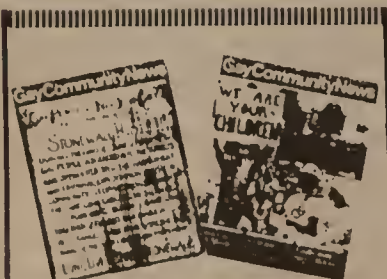
JLF sks respon feminist F for homey 2
BR Dav. Sq apt 285+. Avail. now! No
pet, smk, drg, min. alc. 12 steppers esp
O.A. welcome. 623-8659. (25)

SOMERVILLE—UNION SQUARE

LF seeks same for cozy 2-BR apt nr T.
Sk communicative, E—Z going individ
with sense of humor. \$300+. Pam
623-1835. Days 277-5280. (26)

HOUSING WANTED**APARTMENT/ROOM WANTED**

Nonsmok LF 37 sks am apt or share
2+BR apt. Clean/safe area near T
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Check out GCN

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pets \$550+. Call aft 6 or wknd
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bedroom. Dining room, yard back
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94114. (V15.18)

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MA 02143. (ex)

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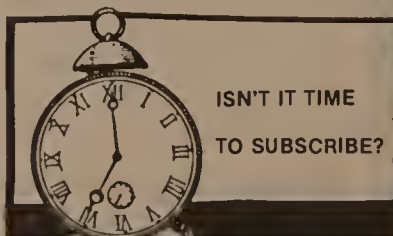
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FL, 33040, or call (305) 296-5173 (28)



Check out GCN

Prisoners Seeking Friends

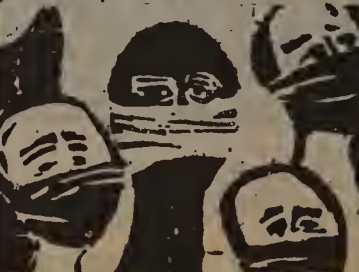
TO ALL THOSE WHO IN AND OUT OF
PRISON FIGHT AGAINST THEIR BONDAGE
(Alexander Berkman, *Prison Memoirs of an
Anarchist*)

**WHY ARE GAY/LESBIAN PRISONERS
SO HARD ON EACH OTHER?**

We know guards etc. are hard on us
(they're scared of losing control), and
we know strait prisoners are too
(they're scared of admitting how good
relationships with other men/women
can be); but **WHY** are gay/lesbian
prisoners so often unwilling to be
friends/lovers with **EACH
OTHER?????** Mike would like to do a
piece on this and needs some help.
Let me hear from you (y'all). Thanks.

**FEB. IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH!**

Black gay & lesbian prisoners &
friends are welcome to submit short
letters, drawings & poems — **BY JAN.
15!!!** — on how black people are part
of the gay/lesbian 'community' (and
also on how they are not); and on how
relationships between black & white
prisoners are discouraged as part of
the prisons' divide-and-conquer
technique of racism and fear of love
between prisoners.

**WHAT IS A 'POLITICAL PRISONER'?**

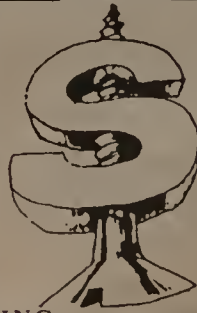
I recently met an ex-prisoner (2 years in
the federal joint at Danbury, CT) who
had done time for an anti-military action.
His 'attitude' toward his prison experience
was different from most of those I feel in
the 100 or so letters I read each week from
GCN's prisoner readers. He felt no 'guilt'
(of course) for what he did and was less
ready to let them make him feel like the
'scum of the earth' etc. etc.

The self-righteous attitude of guards
(which just represents the attitude of peo-
ple outside generally toward 'criminals')
and the moralizing guilt they try to spread
on prisoners' backs is part of the punish-
ment. I'd like to put together a
'Freedom's Just' about this stuff. Please
send your ideas. Hopefully the resulting
piece will make prisoners better able to
resist this feeling of being not as good as
other people. Please send your ideas to
Mike. THANKS.

**Prison Population EXPLODES!!**

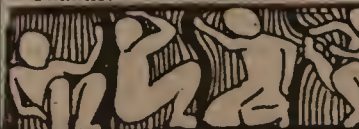
There are now over 500,000 people in
prison. (4.8% are women) We are behind
only South Africa and Russia in per capita
caging. The increase of over 25,000 in the
first half of 1986 means to prevent further
overcrowding the system needs over 1000
new beds/cells **EVERY WEEK!**
Meanwhile, 1% of US citizens own
50% of the wealth.

Which is rude enough by itself! But
then the power, or rather privilege, that
goes with that wealth, and allows it to ride
on the backs of the rest of us. ... not able
to leave us in 'peaceful poverty'

**COMING OUT!**

What kind of support is available?
What's needed? How to start getting
it? What could prisoners be doing
(inside organizing and after they're
out!)? Ideas?

Send Mike your feelings and
thoughts on everything here from
jobs to friendship to changes in peo-
ple's attitudes toward 'ex-cons' etc.
etc. I'll try to put them all together
and make a story out of them.
Thanks.

**WOMEN PRISONERS!!!**

We have written you all a
(form) letter about our
spring-summer special
supplement on Women in
Prison. Some prisons are
not letting it in. Let us hear
from you anyway (smile):
about health, use of drugs
(as 'medication'), loving (&
lusting!) relationships,
racism, and how they keep
you fighting each other
(instead of them, your
cage-keepers); and
anything else you feel is
important. We also need
poems and DRAWINGS!!!
THANKS!

**NO MORE SHIT**

Yvonne Chatmen and Thelma Hunter
please write me when you get releas-
ed. We can't receive mail or write
anyone in prison. I'll write you when
you are released. Thank you, Tammy
Melchione, Box 700, Mitchellville IA
50169.



I've been in prison for the last 6 years
for consensual sex with teenagers.
Need a friend to be a parole
"sponsor". Please write me for
details. It's not complicated. Robert
SCOTT, Box 138, Medical Lake WA
99022.

Young gay man desperately in need
of companionship. I'm lonely. Please
write me. I promise I'll write you back
the same day I receive your letter.
Michael HOUT, 388972-M2-18, Rt 2
Box 20, Midway TX 75852.

Black male. Very interesting and love
all kinds of people. My hobbies are
basketball, writing and staying
healthy. Alfonso MILLER, 184908,
Box 57, Marion OH 43302.

Serious minded, attractive, body
building Black male, 34, searching for
a speical kind of friend. Levi PAYNE,
029343, Box 500, Levi PAYNE,
Olustee FL 32072.

Tall, Black, handsome, looking for
TVs, TSs, all Queens. Must be for real
and want a man who will cherish you
more each day. Jullus EVANS,
303333, Box 16. Lovelady TX 75851

1/2 American Indian and 1/2 Irish, do-
ing a little time. Smooth golden flesh,
cut and clean. Just full of sweet
things for you. Fr and Gk. Glenn
FLORY, 2B7 Wayne Cty Jail, 201 W.
North St., Wooster OH 44691.

Hello, I like to talk with people from
the outside world and love to have
sex and want a real friend. Please
send me your newspaper too. Frank
PITTMAN, EF-170442 (G-3), Reidsville
GA 30499.

I have 3 years to do and need a penpal
to write (smile). I hope to hear from
you soon. (I can send a picture if you
like.) Leonard WATKINS, Box 900,
44007, Jefferson City MO 65102.

Down and out but styalng active, at-
tractive, and healthy and in need of
penpals. Please send sexy photo of
yourself. Barry EWELL, 058939, B-66,
Box 500, Olustee FL 32072.

I don't need a subscription to your
paper because my cellie has one, but
I would very much like to put an ad in
your column for penpals. Please
write. Douglas PICHON, 43303, Box 2,
Lansing KS 66043



CALENDAR

January 11 to January 29

11 sunday

Jamaica Plain — Lesbian and Gay **Neighbors** monthly potluck. First Church Hall, Eliot and Centre St. 4-7PM. Bring a dish and a non-alcoholic beverage. Newcomers welcome. Info: 522-6253.

Brookline — Brookline/Brighton/Allston Lesbians potluck dinner featuring **shiatsu** massage demonstration. 6PM. Info: 783-3884.



Rochelle E. Campbell

The Washington sisters, 15 thursday

12 monday

Boston — Boston Lesbian/Gay Political **Alliance annual meeting**. U/Mass Boston (Park Square), Rm 222. 7PM. Info: 265-0348.

Cambridge — "Musically Speaking" hosted by Melanie Berzon. WMBR-FM 88.1. 8-10PM.

Cambridge — **Narcotics Anonymous**. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 7:30-9:30PM. Info: 354-8807.

13 tuesday

Boston — **Healing Service** for all those affected by AIDS. Kings Chapel, Tremont St. Info: 437-6200.

Boston — "Say It Sister," hosted by Jennifer Abod. WMBR, 88.1 FM. 7-8PM.

Boston — LEGACY's first **day-time weekly drop-in** for gay/lesbian elders. Gay & Lesbian Counselling Service, 6 Hamilton Pl., 3rd floor. 11AM-5PM. Info: Ann Maguire, 725-3485.

14 wednesday

Boston — Gay and Lesbian **Labor Activists** Networking Today (GALLANT) open meeting. 145 Tremont St., Rm 207. Info: Diane, 338-1911 or Gerry, 442-4324.

Cambridge — "Mourning Our Relationships," discussion for **lesbians 35+**. Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. 8PM. Info: 661-3633.

Cambridge — **Feminist discussion group**. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Central Sq. 8PM. Info: 354-8807.

Cambridge — A musical benefit for **Fenway Community Health Center**. T.T. the Bears, 10 Brookline St., Central Sq. 8PM. Info: 868-2061, or 924-7458.

Cambridge — **Lesbian Al-Anon**. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 6:30-8:30PM. Childcare provided. Info: 354-8807.

Boston — **New Ehrlich Theater** presents Sam Shepard's *Curse of the Starving Class*. 539 Tremont St. 8PM. \$10-15. Info: 482-6316.

15 thursday

Boston — **GCN's production night**. All welcome. Proofreading: until 8PM. Paste-up: 8PM-on. 167 Tremont St., near Park & Boylston T-stops. GCN: 426-4469.

Cambridge — **Lesbians Choosing Children Network**. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Central Sq. 7:30PM. Childcare provided. Info: 354-8807.

Cambridge — **Allegra Coffeehouse** featuring funk/folk duo Sandra and Sharon Washington, and emcee Jennifer Justice. YWCA, 7 Temple St. 8PM. \$6. Info: 547-1378.

Dorchester — **GALA monthly meeting**. 7:30PM. Info: 825-4463.

16 friday

Boston — **GCN's volunteer night**: all welcome to help mail the paper to our subscribers. Refreshments, good times. Anytime after 6PM. 167 Tremont St., near Park & Boylston T-stops. GCN: 426-4469.

Boston — **Beginning Pieces** by Alfred Guzetti. Boston Film/Video Foundation, 1126 Boylston St. \$4, \$3 for members. info: 536-1540.

Boston — "Getting Well, Staying Healthy," **holistic therapy conference** for people concerned about AIDS. Evening program followed by Saturday workshops. Total cost \$25. Info: AAC, 437-6200.

Cambridge — **Women's Coffeehouse**. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Central Sq. 8PM. Info: 354-8807.

Boston — Girth & Mirth, for **heavy men** and those who prefer them, **Black and White Party**. Hill House, 74 Joy St. 8-10PM. All welcome. Info: 757-5432 or 566-6530.

Boston — **Lesbian poet, Judy Grahn**: the work of a common woman. Old South Church, 645 Boylston St., Copley Sq. 7PM. \$3-5. Sponsored by the Women's Theological Center.

17 saturday

Concord, NH — **Lambda**, a lesbian organization, monthly meeting, potluck and **game night**. 5:30PM. Info: P.O. Box 1043, Concord, NH, 03301.

Dorchester — The Dorchester/Mattapan Jobs With Peace chapter will host the "Evening of Unity" **concert**. Whiton Hall, 38 Centre St. 7:30PM. \$5 in advance, \$6 door. Info: 451-3389.

Boston — **Free martial arts** lessons. Kodokan judo and non-violent Christian/Buddhist principles. 48 Boylston St. 2PM. info: 628-0216 (days).

18 sunday

Boston — Boston **Intercollegiate Lesbian & Gay Alliance** trip to Provincetown. info: 437-7399.

Boston — The **Ionian Society**, gay/lesbian people of **Greek heritage**, game night. 6PM. Info: Helena, 625-3172, or Stephanie, 894-8363.

Jamaica Plain — **Disabled Lesbians** discussion group. 1-3PM. New members welcome. Wheelchair accessible. ASL "spoken." info: 524-1890.

20 tuesday

Boston — "Say It Sister", hosted by Kate Rushin. WMBR, 88.1 FM. 7-8PM.

Boston — **New England Gay and Lesbian Veterans** monthly meeting. Hill House, 74 Joy St., Beacon Hill. Info: David, 262-9793.

21 wednesday

Boston — Boston NOW's **Lesbian Rights Task Force** meeting. 971 Commonwealth Ave. 7PM. Info: 782-1056.

Cambridge — **Politics of Fat** discussion group. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St., Central Sq. 7:30PM. Info: 354-8807.

22 thursday

Boston — **Open House** with Boston's gay/lesbian **pride planning** group. 134 Edgerly Rd. 7:30PM. Info: 267-2150.

Boston — "Class and Race in Feminist Theory," a presentation by Karen Sacks. Northeastern Univ., Ell Bldg., Frost Lounge. 8PM.

23 friday

Boston — Selections from the **National Video Festival**. Boston Film/Video Foundation, 1126 Boylston St. 8PM. \$5, \$4 for members. Info: 536-1540.

Brookline — **Lesbian and Gay Neighbors of Jamaica Plain skating**. Lars Anderson ice rink. 7-10PM.

Boston — **Cultural Extravaganza of Color**, celebration of traditional music and dance. YWCA, 140 Clarendon St. 7:30PM. Info: 536-7940, X103.

Allston — **Double Edge Theater** presents *Song of Absence in the Fall of the Ashen Reign*, directed by Stacy Klein. Double Edge Theater, 5 St. Luke's Rd. 8PM. Free. Info: 254-4228.



Debbie Rich

United Fruit Co., 24 saturday

24 saturday

Cambridge — **Community Party** sponsored by the Gay and Lesbian Defense Committee. Entertainment: United Fruit Co. First Parish Church, 3 Church St. 9PM. Info: 522-4368.

25 sunday

Cambridge — Readings from *Naming the Violence: Speaking Out About Lesbian Battering*. New Words Bookstore, 186 Hampshire St. 3-5PM. Info: 561-0986.

Jamaica Plain — **Lesbian and Gay Neighbors brunch**. Doyle's Cafe, Washington St. 11AM.

Boston — **Rock Against Sexism** presents **Tea Dance** (Disc Party). 1270 Club, 1270 Boylston St. 6-10PM. \$2 donation. Everyone over 21 is welcome. Info: 789-5853.

Watertown — **Gays and Lesbians of Watertown (GLOW) monthly meeting**. 7PM. Info: 891-3781.

Cambridge — **GALA monthly potluck/social**. 6PM. Somerville/Medford GALA members invited. Info: Dan, 648-7411, or Kathryn, 661-6896.

Boston — **D. O. B. 17th birthday party**. Somewhere Else, 295 Franklin St. 6PM. All women welcome. Info: 661-3633.

28 wednesday

Cambridge — **Boston Bisexual Men's Network**. Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. 7:30PM. Info: 247-6683.

29 thursday

Boston — **Subterranean Video** open house in honor of **Boston Film/Video Foundation's** 10th anniversary. BF/VF, 1126 Boylston St. 6-10PM. Free. Info: 536-1540.

Boston — **Mass. College of Art AIDS art exhibit opening**. Tower Bldg., 621 Huntington Ave. 5-7PM. Free. Info: 254-0571.

Cambridge — **Allegra Coffeehouse** featuring *Pumping Iron II: The Women* and a live demonstration by Bodyworks weightlifters. YWCA, 7 Temple Pl. 7:30PM. \$3-6. Info: 547-1378.

Superheroes Improved?

When I was growing up, I read comic books for their fantasy. They were relentlessly heterosexual, but I insinuated my little boy faggot identity anyway. I saw strong women and beautiful men where I was supposed to see strong men and beautiful women. I took what they gave me and turned it around.

Two new comics pretend to give me the characters I always wanted. They're good examples of how mass culture can give us what we want and turn it against us.

Recreated with the new Superman and Batman, DC Comic's new *Wonder Woman* is all symbol and no substance. There are some cosmetic improvements: our hero had ditched those impractical high heels for flats, and her sister Amazons carry labryses.

Yet much has changed for the worse. In the old *Wonder Woman* the Amazons simply left the world of men; now, the women are exiled to Paradise Island for violently rising against their male oppressors. Where they were once sexually ambiguous, they are now asexual. They're strong in their virginity, like their patron goddesses Athena, Artemis and Hestia who appear in the first book of the new series.

The book is superficially cross-cultural and multi-racial. The Amazons are costume-drama Greek warriors, and speak "Classical" Greek. There are even some Black Amazons. But they're not built like Greek women, or Black women: they look like northern European barbie-dolls.

In short, the new *Wonder Woman* has labryses without autonomy, strength without passion, and costumes without culture.

The queerest, and most heterosexual, book in mainstream comics is Marvel's *Alpha Flight*, which is about a team of Canadian superheroes.

One character, Northstar, is arguably the only queer superhero in comics. Northstar is a walking stereotype: a misogynist pretty boy tragically in love with his sister's straight boyfriend. Currently he's sick with an unspecified immune deficiency. Marvel doesn't publicize the character's sexuality, but an inside source confirms he's gay. The source also reports Marvel's only gay hero will be dead within the year.

Northstar's sister, Aurora, and her boyfriend, Sasquatch, have their problems as well. Through a strange plot twist, Sasquatch became a woman in issue number 45. And now he's upset because, as a woman, he can't give Aurora what she needs.

This all wouldn't matter so much, except I know too many young gay men and lesbians who read comic books religiously. Especially comic books like *Alpha Flight*, where they identify with a queer character. They care about the book and the character. They've been promised something new and improved. Now all they're getting is a new and improved version of the same old bullshit.

— Marcos Bisticas-Cocoves

Archives lesbiennes de Montreal

Archival material, offices, supplies and financial support sought for new lesbian archive.

Archives lesbiennes de Montreal, a/s Danielle Chagnon, C.P. 13. Succ. De Lorimier, Montreal, PQ H2H 2N6.

Video Producers Sought

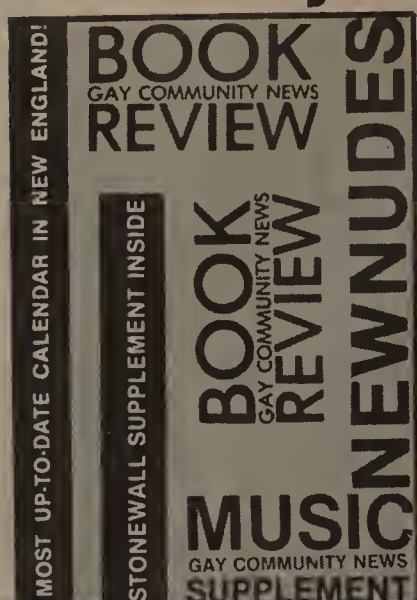
"Gay Boston" cable producers Mary Kennedy and Eileen Joyce are seeking access producers, as well as volunteers and ideas for coverage of local, and national, issues and entertainment. Write to them at BNN-TV, 25 Huntington Ave., Suite 406, Boston, MA 02116.

Calendar compiled by Terri L. Rutter

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